MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 MARCH 1983

Lebanon

Tripartite Negotiations -- Foreign Minister Elie Salim denied that 2 April is the "deadline" for reaching an agreement with Israel, but asserted that if no agreement is reached "in the next 2 weeks" then Lebanon must "raise the temperature of the negotiations" and hold more contacts "within the U.S. initiative," Beirut radio reported. Salim added that a stage has been reached where an agreement is "almost ready" provided that intentions are good and each party wants to ensure the sovereignty and stability of the other, the radio added.

During the 25 March tripartite talks in Netanya, Lebanese delegation head Antoine Fattal affirmed to the Israeli delegation that Salim's remarks on the need to reach an agreement within 2 weeks are an ultimatum, Beirut radio reported citing a Lebanese Information Ministry dispatch. Israeli delegation head David Kimche said he is happy to know that Israel is not facing an ultimatum because it had refused to continue the discussions under such conditions, the radio added citing the Israeli delegation spokesman. The Lebanese delegation spokesman noted that the plenary discussion was "frank" and said the delegations urged the military subcommittee to immediately begin studying the main points concerning the security arrangements.

Security Situation -- An IDF soldier was wounded by a bomb exploding as an IDF patrol drove near the Ash-Shuwayfat neighborhood, south of Beirut, Jerusalem radio reported. According to another radio report, commander of the IDF forces in Lebanon Brigadier General Amnon Lipkin said the "terrorists" who attack IDF soldiers come from the area under the control of the Lebanese Army and the multinational force. He added that most of the "terrorists" are members of the PLO'a Fatah organization and pointed out that during the past 4 weeks seven or eight ambushes were set in which two Israeli soldiers were killed and seven were wounded.

Reaction to U.S. Decision on Missile Sales

Commenting on the U.S. decision to sell air-to-air missiles to Israel, Riyadh radio asked if the U.S. Administration is trying to undermine or abort President Reagan's peace initiative by giving this support to the Israelis at precisely this time. Citing recent remarks by Jordan's King Husayn indicating that he will announce his position on Reagan's initiative in the next few days, the radio pointed out that the U.S. decision is being described as "American pressure." The radio also noted that the U.S. Administration has refrained from selling any weapons to any side in the Middle East for about 1 year.

An article in the Jordanian paper AD-DUSTUR reviewed by Amman radio asked whether this new military aid to Israel is the "pressure" that the Arabs have been expecting from the United States. The article added that Washington's decision to supply Israel with 200 sophisticated missiles "takes us back to square one" and noted that it will be "regrettable and serious" if U.S. and Israeli views are identicial.

Egypt

In an interview with the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali declared that 1983 will witness the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and the Soviet Union now that the reasons which led to the severance of relations "no longer exist," MENA announced confirming an earlier report on 'Ali's remarks. Meanwhile, Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, indicated that Egyptian-Soviet relations "will improve in the next few weeks," MENA noted citing Ghali's remarks to National Democratic

Party leaders. On relations with Israel, Ghali affirmed that Egypt "will not cede 1 centimeter" of Tabah, but will regain it "sooner or later." Regarding relations with Sudan, he emphasized the Egyptian-Sudanese military treaty and said Egypt "will intervene immediately" in the event of "any direct or indirect aggression" against Sudan.

PLO Affairs

Addressing the final meeting of the 16th session of the standing commission on Afro-Arab cooperation in Tunis, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said, "We lace our humble potential at the service of Africa and our technical expertise at its disposal," Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Later 'Arafat visited Algeria and met with President Chadli Bendjedid, according to APS.

Speaker Khalid al-Fahum met in Damascus with Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and discussed the latest developments in the Middle East, Damascus radio reported. Al-Fahum stressed the close relationship between the Palestinian people and the USSR and Koshoyev affirmed Soviet support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state, the radio added. Meanwhile, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has indicated that Israel will launch a new offensive against the Syrian and Palestinian forces in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' area and will strike "deep inside Syria" using Syria's "defensive" missiles as a pretext, Damascus radio noted citing Hawatimah's interview with Cuba's PRELA.

Algeria

An Algerian envoy departed for Moscow carrying a message to CPSU General Secretary Yuriy Andropov from President Chadli Bendjedid, Algiers radio reported. The radio added that another envoy would shortly visit Saudi Arabia to deliver a message from Bendjedid to King Fahd.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi sent a congratulatory telegram to Morocco's King Hassan II on the occasion of throne day in which he wished the king good health and happiness and the fraternal Moroccan people progress and prosperity, Rabat radio reported.

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AL-FAHUM MEETS SOVIET DELEGATION IN SYRIA

JN241758 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] At the Council's headquarters in Damascus today, PNC Chairman Khalid al-Fahum discussed with Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and chairman of the Presidium of the Kirgiz SSR Supreme Soviet, and his delegation the current situation in the Arab region and the dimensions of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, which is aimed at liquidating the Palestinian revolution and dealing a blow to Syria through U.S. imperialism's attempt at imposing fierce pressures to force its aggressive hegemony on the Arab region. Al-Fahum stressed the importance of the strategic, fateful alliance between Syria and the Palestinian people and of the close relationship with the socialist bloc, and primarily with the USSR, the loyal ally of the Arab issue.

Koshoyev reviewed the stands and close relations between the USSR and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. He also affirmed his country's principled support for the Palestine question until complete victory is achieved for the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, restoration of their legitimate and inalienable national rights, and establishment of their independent state.

AL-WAZIR DEPARTS SYRIA FOR MILITARY COUNCIL MEETING

JN242101 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Mar 83

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, left Damascus for Tunis today to participate in the Higher Palestinian Military Council meeting which, under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat, will discuss the question of unifying the PLO forces under a new name, the Palestinian National Liberation Army [al-Jaysh al-Watani Litahrir Filastin].

HAWATIMAH PREDICTS ISRAELI OFFENSIVE IN AL-BIQA'

JN241942 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has indicated that Israel will launch a new offensive against Syrian and Palestinian forces in Al-Biqa' and will strike deep inside Syria, using the Syrian missiles, which are merely defensive, as a pretext. In an interview with Cuba's PRELA today, Hawatimah stressed that Israel's objective behind this offensive is to subjugate Syria and the Palestinian resistance and to authorize King Husayn to enter negotiations with Israel in accordance with Ronald Reagan's plan. He added: We have ahead of us a hot political summer, which Israel and the U.S. imperialists may develop into a bloody one.

BAGHDAD VOICE OF PLO ON ISRAELI, U.S. MOVES

JN241848 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Since the Zionist occupation of Lebanese territory, U.S. officials have been pouring out statements and embarking on moves indicating on the surface that the Lebanese crisis will soon be resolved and that Lebanon will restore its unity and independence after the withdrawal of foreign forces from its territory. The U.S. Administration, some Lebanese quarters, and some of the Arabs have been satisfied with Philip Habib's achievements and moves.

Meanwhile, Israel has entrenched its occupation of Lebanon, utilized the waters of the Al-Litani River, strengthened the positions of some of its agents such as Sa'd Haddad, deployed his militiamen in southern Lebanon and parts of Al-Biqa', and established leagues [rawabit] and the so-called national guard.

Ever since the Zionist-Lebanese-U.S. negotiations started, it has become obvious that Israel is creating obstacles to hinder the withdrawal of its forces. The legitimate Lebanese authorities, who have made more and more concessions, exposed this fact and were surprised that Israel does not really want to withdraw but, on the contrary, wants to harm Lebanese sovereignty by wagering on Sa'd Haddad's militias to continue its occupation of Lebanon. This fact was further confirmed after Lebanon proposed to use its regular forces, with the help of the multinational forces, to maintain order in southern Lebanon, something that was rejected by Israel. The Lebanese announced that they are losing patience and said that they will wait 2 more weeks during which Israel must withdraw or Lebanon will resort to other alternatives.

What other alternatives? Beirut reports say that these alternatives will be within the framework of U.S. proposals to solve the Lebanese crisis through Washington's envoys and their moves.

All the stands have become clear now: Israeli refusal to withdraw faced by Lebanese insistance on the authorities right to deploy their sovereignty all over Lebanon. The U.S. stand, on the other hand, has not changed. As everyone inside and outside Lebanon knows, the U.S. stand has never been separate from the Zionist intention to invade Lebanon. The U.S. stand has not been and never will be isolated from the Zionist intentions toward Lebanon or elsewhere. Actually, U.S. decisions and intentions are a form of implementing U.S. policy in Lebanon, in the occupied Palestinian territories, and elsewhere. Hence one may question the nature of Lebanon's intention to resort to other alternatives within the framework of President Reagan's proposals. Will the Lebanese crisis finally be tied to the Palestinian cause as President Reagan's initiative hinted, particularly since some people believe that Lebanon's occupation is becoming a fait accompli?

No one, including those who welcome the Zionist occupation of Lebanon to free them from the Palestinians, disagrees with us that the enemy's government is trying diligently to delay its withdrawal from Lebanon until after the U.S. presidential election, in light of which a settlement in Lebanon and the Middle East will be determined. Begin's government wagers that, if this happens, the Arabs will wait until the new U.S. president has studied the files of the Middle East, Lebanon, and the Palestinian cause, by which time Israel will have strengthened its occupation of Lebanon and the occupied West Bank. If Reagan fails in the election, then the Zionist rulers will argue that the Reagan plan left together with its author's departure from the White House. This would certainly improve Israel's position in negotiations and help it to force Lebanon and the Arabs to surrender and yield to its will. Israel realizes that its occupation of Lebanon is the best card the enemy can use in its bargaining with the U.S. Administration regarding the status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

We would like to address a question to those still wagering on Wasington's policy and role in finding a settlement to the Lebanese crisis: If the United States is incapable of forcing Israel to withdraw from Lebanon, as the former claims, how, then, will it be able to force or convince Israel to give up the occupied Palestinian territories or even to halt the settlements? Isn't the Zionist occupation of Lebanon a good enough example to put the U.S. stand and role to the test? Isn't this enough to convince those wagering on Washington of the false claims that Washington is trying to bring about peace but is incapable of forcing Israel to withdraw?

It is high time all the Arabs realized that our nation's archenemy is the United States and that Israel is only a satellite revolving in Washington's orbit and an agent implementing the desires of its overlords in Washington.

AL-KHALIDI DELIVERS HUSAYN LETTER TO 'ARAFAT

GF241708 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 23 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] London -- Informed diplomatic sources have told AL-ANBA' that Walid al-Khalidi, member of the Arab seven-member committee, has carried a private letter from King Husayn to PLO Chairman 'Arafat.

The sources said Dr al-Khalidi delivered the message to Abu 'Ammar in Tunis. They added that it is believed a meeting will be held between the king and the PLO chairman in Amman during the next few days to discuss current developments.

ARAB-AFRICAN COMMITTEE CONCLUDES MEETINGS

LD242126 Rabat MAP in English 1237 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, March 24 (MAP) -- The Arabo-African permanent commission of cooperation, which ended its meetings here Wednesday, had decided to coordinate the Lagos plan for the social and economic development in Africa and the Amman strategy for a common Arab economic action, said Mr Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League. At a press conference, held on Wednesday, the League's secretary general said that participants in the meeting have examined, on the political plan, the situation in the Middle East in light of efforts stepped up by Arab countries to reach a just and durable peace in the Middle East on the basis of international legality and in conformity with the Fes plan that was adopted last September by the 12th Arab summit.

Regarding the situation in Namibia, Mr. Klibi said that the commission had adopted several resolutions on the strengthening of the struggle of the Namibian people under the leadership of the "SWAPO" (South-West African People's Organization).

The Commission also adopted "an agreement of cooperation, solidarity and friendship that was concluded between the Arab League and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), said Mr. Klibi, who added that participants have agreed on a series of recommendations for the achievement of a project on the creation of an Arabo-African cultural institute.

At the closing session, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Mr. Yasir 'Arafat underlined in a speech that "it was imperious for Arabs and Africans to cooperate because of their historical and geographic ties and because of the common struggles led by the Arab and African communities". He urged for the setting up of a common scientific strategy of development between African and Arab countries for the edification of a better future for the two communities' peoples.

'Arafat Remarks Reported

JN241703 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Addressing the final meeting of the 16th session of the standing committee on Afro-Arab cooperation in Tunis, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] welcomed the participants, commending the historical and cultural relations between the Arab nation and Africa. Brother Abu 'Ammar then touched on the battles currently being waged by the Arab nation and Africa for freedom and progress.

The commander in chief then dealt with the Arab peace plan which was unanimously approved by the Arab leaders during the Fes summit, adding that this is the unanimous Arab plan to establish a just peace to guarantee the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to determine their own future and set up their independent national state on their own soil.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said: We place our humble potential at the service of Africa and our technical expertise at its disposal.

Alluding to the Iraqi-Iranian war, the commander in chief said: I hope that you will address an appeal to both sides to halt this war, particularly since Iraq has pulled its forces back from Iranian territory. Brother Abu 'Ammar reiterated his call to stop this bleeding wound which is weakening our nation, issues, and objectives.

QATARI DAILY ANTICIPATES PLO POST RESHUFFLE

GF242018 Doha QNA in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Doha, 24 Mar (QNA) -- The Qatari newspaper AR-RAYAH today quoted a responsible Palestinian official as saying that a series of changes and transfers among PLO representatives throughout Arab and foreign capitals will take place soon.

The Palestinian source explained to AR-RAYAH that, according to these changes, Mr at-Tayyib 'Abd ar-Rahim Mahmud will be appointed PLO representative in the UAE in place of Mr Anis al-Khatib, who will be transferred to the Damascus office. Mr Mahmud al-Labadi, former PLO press spokesman, will be appointed director of PLO office in Brussels.

The source added that Mr Ribhi 'Awad, former PLO representative in the UAE, will be appointed director of the PLO office in Helsinki after Finland agreed to allow the PLO to open an office there. Mr Faysal 'Uwaydah will be appointed PLO representative in London in place of Nabil ar-Ramlawi, who will be transferred to Geneva. The PLO representative in Geneva is to be appointed PLO representative in the Austrian capital, Vienna.

The source indicated that the appointment of a new PLO representative in Kuwait is being studied. This is the post that has been vacant since the assassination of the former representative, 'Ali Nasir Yasin, although it has been temporarily occupied by Mr 'Awni Battash.

The changes will also include PLO representatives in Latin America, Asia, and Africa, but these have not been detailed yet.

The Palestinian source said it is not unlikely that changes will be made in the PLO office in the United States within the organization's plan to confront Zionist propaganda and to penetrate U.S. public opinion.

QADDUMI INVITED TO ICO EMERGENCY SESSION

JN241914 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has received a cable from Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Secretary General Habib Chatti dealing with the Jerusalem Committee's emergency session to be held on 6 April in Morocco.

The cable indicated that the committee will debate the serious consequences resulting from the frequent attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock, and other holy places and will adopt appropriate measures to halt such aggression and mobilize world, Arab, and Islamic public opinion to safeguard the holy places from the Zionist folly.

SAUDI ARABIA

RADIO ON EEC ATTITUDE TOWARD ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

LD232239 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Comment by Husayn al-Askari, presented by Ahmed Nariri]

[Text] At the end of their Brussels conference, the leaders of the EEC held Israel responsible for not reaching real peace because of its stubborn positions.

It seems that the contradiction in statements by European officials regarding their countries' attitude toward the Arab-Israeli conflict and its essence, the rights of the Palestinian people, has become permament in the statements and talks by the EEC officials. But this contradiction lies not so much in its content as in its style of presentation.

In June 1980, the Venice statement defined more clearly the position of the EEC member-states toward the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The Venice statement stressed the need for the PLO to participate in any efforts for a real and just peace. The states which issued that statement continue to declare that they are committed to its content.

But an unexpected incident has dispersed much of the hope which used to be centered around the Venice statement. This was the surprising statement by French President Francois Mitterrand which went back on the spirit of the Venice statement. The French president asked the PLO to change the first article of its Charter, in other words, to have the PLO recognize Israel as a basic step for the negotiations. President Mitterrand declared this before his departure for Israel in an interview with the Jewish Paris-based (HARATCH). He then made that point very clear in his address to the Israeli Knesset when he visited occupied Palestine. This was considered and continues to be considered by observers to be an indication of a change in the French attitude toward the Palestinian rights which France used to support more enthusiastically than other European country. The French officials explain their new attitude by saying that their country wants a peace that will give the Palestinians a state and at the same time ensure Israel's right to (?exist).

But this interpreation remained unclear with regard to its most important aspect; French moves in particular, and the moves by the EEC member-states in general, in order to make Israel deal with the reality of the situation. This is more important. Hence, the position of the European countries, which waver between words and action, and look toward solutions which, as the Europeans believe, the United States is more capable of finding. This is the secret of the hesitation and contradiction in the (?their) opinions.

COMMENTARY QUESTIONS U.S. ARMS SALE TO ISRAEL

LD242012 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Defense Department has announced its consent to the sale of conventional air-to-air missiles to Israel. This announcement came just a few days before King Husayn clarified his position on the Reagan initiative. A number of political experts wonder about the meaning of the U.S. Administration's intentions in selling these air-to-air missiles to the Zionist entity. Is the American Administration trying to undermine and abort the U.S. President's initiative by giving this support to the Israelis at precisely this time?

One should mention that His Majesty King Husayn said in London that he would announce his position on President Reagan's initiative in the next few days. Observers believe that the Jordanian monarch will announce his position after meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. This is why the announcement regarding the U.S. intention to sell these missiles to Israel is described as American pressure, especially since the American Administration had been refraining from selling any weapons to any side in the Middle East for about a year.

For this reason, this is the first arms deal with one of the sides in the region despite the fact that a number of Arab states have asked the American Government to supply them with weapons. For instance, Jordan has repeatedly asked for American weapons but the Zionist lobby in the American Congress wrote to President Reagan asking him to ensure that the United States does not sell any arms of any kind to Jordan until the Jordanian monarch agrees to take part in Middle East negotiations on the basis of the Reagan initiative -- at a time when Washington has announced a deal involving sophisticated weapons to Israel despite its obduracy and obstruction to the U.S. President's initiative.

KING FADH RECEIVES IRAQI NUCLEAR ENERGY OFFICIAL

LD231419 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1320 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Mar (SPA) -- At the royal residence outside Riyadh this afternoon, His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Dr Humam 'Abd al-Khaliq, deputy chairman of the Iraqi Nuclear Energy Commission. Dr al-Khaliq handed his majesty a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn of Iraq.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of the Riyadh region.

PDRY

SOVIET DELEGATION VISITS NAVAL FORCES COMMAND

GF241820 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] The Soviet military delegation led by Fleet Admiral Sergey Georgiyevich Gorshkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy defense minister, and commander in chief of the Soviet naval fleet, visited the Naval Forces Command this morning. He and his delegation were received by Brother Naval Captian Ahmad 'Abdallah Muhammad, commander of Naval Forces, and a number of naval forces officers. He toured all departments of the Naval Forces Command, and appreciated the development he witnessed. The commander of the forces briefed him in detail on the establishment and development of the naval forces.

YAR

BRIEFS

NEW ENVOY TO NETHERLANDS -- Muhammad 'Abd ar-Rahman ar-Ruba'i delivered his credentials today to Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands as YAR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. [San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Mar 83 GF]

GHALI ON TABAH, RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION

NC241156 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that President Husni Mubarak's coming visit to China and Jaoan aims at strengthening and activating bilateral relations in various spheres and at exploring new channels for further cooperation between these states and Egypt. He also said that these states play a major role in maintaining world equilibrium.

Ghali made this statement during a meeting he held today with the provincial leaders of the National Democratic Party [NDP] and with the students at the NDP's national studies center in Heliopolis. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Adil 'Izz, director of As-Sadat Academy, and Ibrahim Abu 'Amirah, political official in charge of the center.

Dr Ghali said that there are contacts between Egypt and the majority of the Arab states. He noted that Egyptian diplomacy is striving to strengthen relations with the nine Nile basin countries, above all Sudan, provide Egyptian youths with job opportunities in Africa, and protect the African Continent from the winds of the cold war.

Dr Ghali also announced that the Egyptian ambassador will not return [to Israel] unless the Israeli forces withdraw from Lebanon. He said: We will not cede 1 centimeter of Tabah, but we will regain it sooner or later as we regained Sinai before. All maps and documents prove that it is Egyptian territory.

Dr Ghali explained that thanks to its geographical location, its technical progress, and its economic and fateful association with the Arab states, Egypt is playing a vanguard role in the Arab area, and therefore, Egypt cannot be isolated from the Arab states.

Ghali said that Egypt's policy is clear. Egypt refuses to join military pacts or to align itself with any camp. This became evident during the New Delhi conference, which proved the success of Egyptian diplomacy. He added that the special relationship between Egypt and the United States is not considered an alignment, because the United States is the only state which can put pressure on Israel and which can also defend and restore the Palestinian people's rights and solve the problems in the Middle East.

Dr Ghali indicated that Egyptian-Soviet relations will improve in the new few weeks.

Dr Ghali affirmed that if the efforts aimed at solving the Palestinian issue are not stepped up in the coming weeks, they will be postponed until mid-1985, that is, until after the U.S. elections. He expressed hope that the negotiations between Jordan and the PLO will lead to an alliance and to an agreement, something which would strengthen the Palestinian stand and bring pressure to bear on Israel.

Dr Butrus Ghali made it clear that U.S. President Reagan's initiative is the sole means for solving the Palestinian issue. He said that Egypt welcomes any other initiative that succeeds in achieving the aspired goal through the emergence of a Palestinian entity in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The minister of state for foreign affairs affirmed that, up to this time, there is no alternative for recovering the Palestinians' rights other than negotiations with the Israeli side. He noted that freezing the situation is not favorable for the Palestinian cause because Israel continues to build settlements and to annex territory.

With regard to Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Butrus Ghali emphasized that there is a military treaty between the two countries. He said that Egypt will intervene immediately in case any direct or indirect aggression is perpetrated against Sudan.

He pointed out that the Egyptian-Sudanese economic integration required linking Cairo to Khartoum by railroads, insuring efficient communications and exploiting the vast areas of land available in Sudan to achieve food security for the two countries.

Concerning the heightening cold war in the world, the minister of state for foreign affairs affirmed that Egypt will continue to pursue its policy in the coming years to achieve security for the nonaligned states and to hammer out a reliable formula to reduce the conflicts that erupt among these states.

'ALI ON REAGAN PLAN, RELATIONS WITH USSR

NC241032 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has expressed the belief that the coming 2 weeks will be crucial for the future of the Middle East. He also affirmed that U.S. President Reagan's plan to establish peace in the area still stands a good chance, saying that this depends on the U.S. ability to bring about an Israeli-Lebanese agreement on a withdrawal from Lebanon and on the withdrawal of other foreign forces.

In an interview to be published in the Friday edition of the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, 'Ali noted that the success of the Reagan plan also depends on whether King Husayn will be able to act with the Palestinians toward a solution [ittijah al-hall] or join the negotiations.

In his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR, 'Ali affirmed that there is a close connection between the Lebanese problem and the Palestinian problem. He said that Egypt believes that the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon should take place first, since it would be useless to solve the Palestinian problem and then find ourselves confronted with the Lebanese problem. He noted that whoever can solve the Palestinian problem will inevitably also be able to solve the Lebanese problem.

'Ali explained "the secret behind the sudden Israeli escalation in the area from the Egyptian point of view." He said that whenever Israeli-U.S. relations become tense, Israel tries to strike a bargain with the U.S. Administration. He expressed the belief that Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's recent visit to Washington was aimed at getting something in return for solving the Lebanese problem.

'Ali spoke about the recent differences between Egypt and the Palestinian resistance following the meetings of the PNC in Algiers. He said that these differences were owing to the fact that the Palestinian resistance interfered in Egypt's domestic affairs when it said that it supports and backs all the patriotic forces in Egypt that reject "Camp David," although all the parties in Egypt except one support the agreement.

'Ali said that if a dialogue with the PLO, despite these differences, will be beneficial to the Palestinian cause, Egypt will not refuse to resume one.

'Ali declared that during the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference in New Delhi, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat asked to meet with President Husni Mubarak. However, in view of these differences which were started by the Palestinian resistance, it was impossible for Egypt to hold such a meeting. He noted that during the conference there were contacts and attempts by some Arab leaders to convene such a meeting, but one was not held.

'Ali answered a question on why Egypt has resumed negotiations with Israel after suspending them following Israel's invasion of Lebanon. He said: Egypt is committed to the treaties it has signed with Israel. However, what happened was that the Egyptian people expressed their resentment over what happened in Lebanon, and it was they who froze trade relations.

He explained that Israel, on its part, had frozen the talks on the Tabah problem. When agreement was reached recently to resume the Tabah talks, Egypt did not object to the arrival of an Israeli trade delegation to discuss outstanding problems between the two countries.

Regarding the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, 'Ali reaffirmed that the Egyptian ambassador will not return to Israel before Israel announces a timetable for its withdrawal from Lebanon.

Regarding Israel's participation in the trade fair despite its nonparticipation in the book fair, 'Ali said that it was official Egypt which decided on Israel's nonparticipation in the Egyptian writers and publishers exhibition and that it was also official Egypt which decided on Israel's participation in the trade fair.

'Ali declared that 1983 will witness the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and the Soviet Union, Cyprus, and Bulgaria now that the reasons which led to the severance of relations between Egypt and these states no longer exist.

He noted that there has been an improvement in Egyptian-Soviet relations in the trade and economic fields and that this improvement is manifested in the return of the Soviet experts to Egypt to start working in the Soviet factories which Egypt has bought from the Soviet Union.

He said that this improvement is also owing to the fact that the Soviet information media have improved their attitude toward Egypt. Moreover, a Soviet deputy prime minister recently made a stopover at Cairo airport and revealed to an Egyptian Foreign Ministry under secretary with whom he met that his country is interested in restoring normal diplomatic relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union.

Concluding, 'Ali affirmed that the recent visit by the son of Andrey Gromyko, the Soviet foreign minister, to Egypt -- a visit which was not publicized -- did not aim at restoring diplomatic relations and exchanging ambassadors. He affirmed that Andrey Gromyko's son came to Egypt on a scientific and cultural mission because h is the director of the African Studies Institute in Moscow.

MUBARAK PROMOTES AIR FORCE COMMANDER HILMI

NC241157 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) -- In his capacity as supreme commander of the Armed Forces, President Husni Mubarak has issued a decision promoting Flight Major General Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid Hilmi, the Air Force commander, to the rank of lieutenant general.

MUBARAK SENDS CONGRATULATORY CABLE TO KARAMANLIS

NC241140 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak has sent the following congratulatory cable to Greek President Konstandinos Karamanlis on Greece's national day anniversary:

On your national day anniversary, it pleases me to send Your Excellency the most sincere and heartfelt congratulations, coupled with best wishes of good health and happiness for you personally and further progress and prosperity for the friendly Greek people.

Please accept my highest esteem and regard.

CANADIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES FOR 3-DAY VISIT

NC232228 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2057 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA) -- Gilles Lamontagne, the Canadian minister of national defense, tonight arrived in Cairo on board a special plane for a 3-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt at the invitation of Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production.

On hand at the airport to meet the Canadian national defense minister was Major General Hilal Salamah, commander of the central military area.

Delegation Discusses Military Aid

NC241426 Cairo MENA in English 1351 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 24 (MENA) -- The Egyptian and Canadian military delegations headed by the two countries' defence ministers met here today to discuss what Canada could provide for the Egyptian Armed Forces.

The Egyptian delegation comprised the commanders of all the Armed Forces.

After the meeting, Canadian Minister Gilles Lamontagne said his country was pleased to cooperate with Egypt which he described as the "peace guard" in the Middle East.

Later the Canadian delegation laid a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier. Tomorrow it will have a sightseeing tour at Luxor, and will leave Egypt Saturday.

GHALI RECEIVES TEXT OF EUROPEAN PROCLAMATION

NC242044 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali this evening received Dr Kurt Mueller, the FRG ambassador to Egypt.

On behalf of the governments of the 10 European [community] states, the FRG ambassador presented to Dr Ghali the text of the proclamation that was issued by the European summit conference that convened in Brussels on 21 and 22 March.

Dr Mueller stated that the 10 European states will continue to work to encourage the peace process.

Dr Ghali commented saying that the European proclamation will maintain the momentum needed for the peaceful efforts, adding that the proclamation is compatible with Egypt's stance.

COMMUNIQUE ON 23-24 MARCH WAR OPERATIONS

JN241730 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,038 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 24 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Iraq of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah will ever keep lofty the banners of victory, dignity, and glory, as they were carried by the immortal forefathers in defense of justice, homeland, and sovereignty; the following are the results for last night and today:

1. The daring eagles of our Air Force today attacked enemy positions and concentrations in the central operational sector, scoring direct and accurate hits, inflicting grave losses in life and equipment, and burning some of the enemy's destroyed equipment. All of our eagles returned safely and victoriously to base.

2. One of our units pounded enemy positions and concentrations in the area east of Basra, destroying two infantry positions.

3. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite one of our forward units in the northern operational sector, our unit hit the concentration with artillery, forcing it to flee.

4. One of our partrols, discharging its duties in the Maysan operational sector, found a quantity of serviceable equipment.

5. The criminal rancorous Iranian regime today intermittently shelled Mandali and its outskirts and Zurbatiyah, wounding a civilian and damaging the mausoleum of Imam 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn Musa al-Kasim, nine residences in Zurbatiyah, and one house in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 March 1983

INA REPORTS NA'IM HADDAD'S USSR ACTIVITIES

JN250948 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar (INA) -- Vasiliy Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, met with Na'im Haddad, speaker of the National Assembly, and his delegation in the Kremlin last night. The Iraqi ambassador to the USSR attended the meeting.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and the role interparliamentary ties play in bolstering cooperation and friendship between the two countries.

The USSR official indicated that the Soviet people consistently support the promotion of relations with friendly Iraq, asserting that his country is seeking to enhance them in the interest of the two countries and on the basis of their treaty of friendship and cooperation. Kuznetsov reiterated the USSR's position which calls for ending the Iraq-Iran war as soon as possible and for solving the conflict peacefully. He expressed understanding of Iraq's peaceful proposals to end the war as submitted to the Nonaligned Summit Conference in New Delhi.

Haddad conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to the Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov and to Kuznetsov. He also spoke about Iraq's unwavering attitude toward the development of relations with the USSR. He invited a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation to visit Iraq. The invitation was accepted and the date will be fixed later.

The Iraqi delegation met with Aleksey Shitikov, chairman of the Council of the Union; Vitaliy Ruben, chairman of the Council of Nationalities; and members of the two councils, in the Kremlin yesterday. Views were exchanged on bilateral relations and the ways to develop them and on the role of the two countries' parliamentary institutions in this regard. The Iraqi delegation returned to Moscow yesterday morning after a 5-day tour of the Georgian SSR and Leningrad, where it met with Supreme Soviet representatives. In Moscow, Haddad and his delegation visited and laid wreaths on Lenin's Tomb and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Haddad Conveys Saddam's Greetings

JN221828 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad has conveyed the greetings of President Saddam Husayn to the leadership and people of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic and his wishes for all the friendly USSR peoples for progress and prosperity. This came in a speech delivered today by Na'im Haddad and carried over the central television of Tbilisi. Haddad spoke about the achievements of the democratic experiment in Iraq. He also thoroughly explained the tasks and activities of the National Assembly inside and outside Iraq.

The day before yesterday, Haddad and his delegation met with Pavel Georgiyevich Gilashvili, chairman of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, and visited the iron and steel complex and the Pioneers and youth center.

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES LISBON AFRICAN CONFERENCE

JN251030 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has said that the Arab and African peoples have a historic duty to struggle against the Zionist entity and the South African regime. He asserted Iraq's support for SWAPO's struggle for the sake of liberating Namibia from the racist domination of Pretoria's regime. This came in a message the president addressed to the world conference of solidarity with the frontline states for peace and national liberation in southern Africa, which will be held in Lisbon today. The message will be read by 'Ismat Kittani, Foreign Ministry under secretary and Iraq's representaive in the conference.

President Saddam Husayn added that Iraq feels that the battle of the frontline states and the African liberation movements is part of the comprehensive human struggle being waged by mankind everywhere and on various levels for the sake of attaining human dignity and entrenching the concepts of justice, freedom, and equality to all mankind without division or discrimination under any pretext including that of color, race, or religion. President Saddam Husayn stressed Iraq's full support for the African frontline states in their firm and determined stand in assisting and backing African liberation movements which are fighting for a just and clear cause.

The president said these states deserve every appreciation for the sacrifices they are making by virtue of their position on the first line of defense against a savage, racist regime, which is backed by imperialism, Zionism, and other forces which are still defending outdated concepts and narrow-minded interests. The president explained that Iraq's support for SWAPO's struggle is a matter of firm principle just as its support for other liberation movements in southern Africa which have experienced similar circumstances in fighting colonialism and imperialism. The president pointed out that the Arab nation, which itself is facing an expansionist, racist regime founded on an aggressive Zionist ideology, firmly supports the nations of the African Continent which are suffering from a racist regime in South Africa.

AD-DUSTUR ON U.S. MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL

JN240920 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Mar 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline, "The U.S. and Israeli View of Peace," AD-DUSTUR says: It will be regrettable and serious indeed if it is established that the U.S. and Israeli views are identical. Such identity of views, while the Likud is in power in Israel, will render the situation even more dangerous. The announcement of the U.S. Administration's willingness to supply 200 sophisticated missiles to Israel and of the near resumption of the F-16's shipment pose to the political observer a very ridiculous, yet serious question which is, briefly: Is this new U.S. military aid to Israel the pressure which the Arabs, and all those who seek peace and justice, have been expecting from the United States? This leads us to the next question: Is the U.S. Administration, under President Reagan, a captive of the big lie spread by Kissinger that a strong Israel will be amenable to peace?

AD-DUSTUR adds: The U.S. military, economic, and political support for Israel has enabled the latter to continue to occupy Arab territory, launch aggression and invasions, and commit the most hideous massacres. When the Reagan administration presented its plan, the Arabs welcomed the plan and considered it a small step toward a balanced U.S. policy. But Washington's supplying 200 sophisticated missiles to Israel and resuming the shipment of plans, which were used to carry out acts of destruction and annihilation in the Arab territory, take us back to square one and puts us once again before a U.S. policy which does not realize its real interests in the Middle East. In fact, this policy greatly endangers these interests because of its unlimited support for Israel, which insists on aggression and invasion.

AR-RA'Y ON ISRAELI PLOT TO SEIZE ARAB LAND

JN241219 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] A Palestinian source in Amman has warned of a new Israeli attempt to seize lands inside occupied Arab Jerusalem through attractive offers of granting citizens long-term loans on the pretext of improving their housing conditions.

The Palestinian source said that early this year, a committee comprising the Israeli Housing Ministry, the Jerusalem municipality under Teddy Kolek, and the government (Pirzot) company was formed for this purpose. The committee was entrusted with forcing the emigration of Arab citizens whose number is increasing at a higher rate than that of Jewish citizens. The mission of this committee also includes granting loans to Arab citizens. Although the loans are granted under easy terms and for long periods, the real purpose is to exhaust the citizens and, consequently, make it impossible for them to repay the loans. Thus, the enemy will seize the land. The loan agreements include mortgaging the land until the loans are repaid. The agreements also forbid the repayment of any loan before the set time even if the creditor is capable of doing so. This makes it crystal clear that there exists a new Israeli plot to legally seize the lands of the Arab citizens.

NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS OPENS IN NETANYA

NC250827 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0810 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Report by official delegation of Lebanese Ministry of Information from Netanya -- live]

[Excerpts] This is the delegation of the Ministry of Information to the tripartite Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli negotiations on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the Lebanese territory speaking to you from Netanya, where at 0905 the three delegations arrived at Dan Netanya hotel, where the negotiations are being held. They went up to the 15th floor of the hotel where at 0930 the plenary session was opened. Separate meetings of the three committees -- the mutual relations committee, the military committee on withdrawals, and the termination of the state of war committee -- are scheduled to follow this plenary session.

So far no one can conclude anything about the results which may come out of today's session, especially after the contradictory and charged atmosphere which accompanied the movements, meetings, and statements last week.

We still do not know whether there will be one or two sessions today. We shall be with you to report on any new development as the telephone lines permit.

Plenum Ends; Subcommittees Meet

NC251005 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Report by official delegation of Ministry of Information fron Netanya -- live]

[Text] This is the delegation of the Ministry of Information to the tripartite Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli negotiations speaking to you from Dan Netanya hotel, where the negotiations on the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory are taking place.

At 1020 the plenary session ended and the meetings of the three committees began.

The two official spokesmen of the Lebanese and Israeli delegations, Dr Dawud as-Sayigh and Avi Pazner, made the following statements:

The official spokesman of the Lebanese delegation, Dr Dawud as-Sayigh, stated: Today, during the plenary session and following an inquiry by the Israeli delegation, the head of the Lebanese delegation said that the statements of Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim do not imply any ultimatum or an intention to present one and that the date which appeared in the press, 2 April, was just a mathematical calculation by some journalists. On the contrary, Minister Salim said we may be close to an agreement.

The head of the Lebanese delegation, Dr Antoine Fattal, added that if the minister did make such a statement, this was due to pessimism in Lebanon and in a number of capitals, that Israel does not want to conclude any agreement and is perhaps procrastinating by raising the issue of Sa'd Haddad and so forth.

The head of the Lebanese delegation, Dr Antoine Fattal, urged the head of the Israeli delegation, David Kimche, to dissipate this atmosphere and affirmed that everyone in Lebanon on all levels of the government, from the president down to the negotiating delegation, wants to continue the negotiating process.

The head of the Israeli delegation replied, strongly affirming that Israel wants to conclude an agreement with Lebanon provided this does not take place at the expense of its security.

There was another inquiry by the Israeli side about some of the Lebanese statements concerning alternatives. The head of the Lebanese delegation, Dr Antoine Fattal, said one should not concentrate on them, and perhaps the reason for them is the feeling of lack of optimism which prevails among some circles in Beirut.

Dr as-Sayigh added: The discussion was frank, and the three delegations urged that the work of the committees begin immediately; particularly the military committee, to study in particular the main points concerning the security arrangements.

On the other hand, the spokesman of the Israeli delegation, Avi Pazner, stated the following: A plenary meeting took place this morning in which head of the Israeli delegation David Kimche inquired from head of the Lebanese delegation Dr Antoine Fattal about statements made by Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim. Dr Salim had stated that unless [agreement] is reached within 2 weeks, Lebanon will be compelled to reconsider its position.

Pazner added: The head of the Israeli delegation asked whether this statement is an ultimatum. Dr Fattal replied that this statement was embellished by journalists and that Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan had no intention of presenting an ultimatum to Israel. This talk is just a reflection of the pessimistic atmosphere which prevails in Lebanon, where politicians fear a change in the Israeli position about withdrawal.

Pazner added: Kimche thanked Dr Fattah for these clarifications and said he is happy to know that Israel is not facing an ultimatum, because it had refused to continue the discussions under such conditions. Kimche replied to Dr Salim's statement that Israel has no intention to withdraw, saying: Israel is seeking an agreement with Lebanon and seeking to withdraw from Lebanon, but it must be known that this will not take place at the expense of Israel's security.

Pazner added: This question of Israel's security is fundamental. We want agreement, Kimche added. We are working to achieve agreement, but we shall not agree to any agreement at the expense of Israel's security.

Pazner added: Head of the U.S. delegation Draper expressed his happiness that the two sides have clarified their positions and dissipated the pessimistic atmosphere. He also expressed his happiness that there is no Lebanese ultimatum. He expressed the hope that these discussions will be continued in an atmosphere of understanding, as has been the case so far.

The three committees -- the termination of the state of war committee, the military committee on withdrawals, and the mutual relations committee -- are still meeting separately. We shall be with you again when these meetings end as the telephone lines permit.

2 APRIL DEADLINE FOR ISRAELI ANSWER DENIED

NC241750 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] In a statement to the Voice of Lebanon, an official Lebanese source has denied what has been attributed to a prominent government source that 2 April has been set as a deadline for receiving a positive answer from Israel or else Lebanon might resort to other alternatives within the framework of President Ronald Reagan's initiative.

REPORTAGE ON FOREIGN MINISTER SALIM'S REMARKS

Washington Talks, Negotiations

NC241340 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim stated that U.S. President Reagan has emphasized that all armies must withdraw from Lebanon and that he will not retreat from the positions he has taken -- that Israel and all non-Lebanese forces must withdraw from Lebanon quickly, not during the coming years but during the coming weeks.

In a statement to the press, Minister Salim said: We have convinced the Americans of our sincerity and determination to build a strong Lebanese state and a strong army that alone will assume the security responsibilities in Lebanon, because Lebanon will not allow any forces, other than the legitimate forces, to exist on its territory. Therefore, there is no need for Israel to keep any armies or stations in Lebanon to ensure its security.

Minister Salim affirmed: The Lebanese side has convinced President Reagan and Secretary Shultz of the Lebanese stand and of the fact that there are things which we can do, other things which we cannot do, and yet other things which we will not do, even if we are capable of doing them. They have heard us say this forcefully, clearly, and rationally.

Minister Salim referred to a softening in the Israeli stance, saying: We will see how this softening can be expanded, increased, and deepened so that we will be able to reach points acceptable to Lebanon. Salim described the current phase of negotiations as very sensitive, adding: We do not want to discuss the Lebanese and Israeli conditions publicly, because that would harm the national interests.

Minister Salim underscored the role of the UN forces in the south and t' expansion of their deployment area throughout Lebanon.

Comments on U.S. Role

NC241902 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim today said that the bet on the U.S. initiative continues because the United States alone can influence Israel. The United States, he added, is now exercising a policy of persuading the Israeli Government.

In an exclusive statement to the ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT which appears in London and Jidda, Salim said that Israel will withdraw from Lebanon, that the United States is committed to its pledges to Lebanon, and that the Lebanese do not need a mediator between them and the Syrians and Palestinians. It is the responsibility of the Lebanese Government and leadership to liberate Lebanon and restore full sovereignty without any problems. I consider the Saudi role, he went on, to be pivotal in solving the Lebanese crisis and the Middle East problem.

'Confident' of Accord

NC242118 Paris AFP in English 2059 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Beirut, March 24 (AFP) -- Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim said today he was confident that Lebanon and Israel would reach an accord on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, but said Lebanon could not await the Israeli response more than two weeks before acting.

"We have reached a stage which should see an intensification of negotiations," he said on Lebanese TV after a Lebanese-American work session in preparation for tomorrow's negotiations in Netanya, Israel.

"We are confident that we will reach an accord," he added. "But such an accord will have to come in the near future because we cannot wait another year or two."

He said no deadline had been set, but that "we have to reach an accord within the next two weeks."

Mr Salim called Lebanon's position on the question of post-withdrawal security arrangements "reasonable," saying that if nothing happened in the next two weeks, Lebanon would be forced "to intensify its diplomatic action and to decide with the United States on a new method of action."

U.S. and Israeli military officials meanwhile met here today on measures to avoid further clashes between their Lebanon forces. They said in a joint statement that "It was agreed to establish an additional channel of communication to be used for sharing operation information" which should "eliminate the possibility of misunderstandings...."

Clarifies '2 Weeks' Remarks

NC242210 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim stated that Lebanon has reached a stage where it has offered everything it can offer on the level of security arrangements and that it can offer nothing more without undermining its sovereignty. He added that the United States and all the states concerned with Lebanon's ordeal know this and they know that Lebanon's stand is logical.

Minister Salim added that if no agreement is reached on the basis of these points in the next 2 weeks, then this means that we must exert more efforts, create a new course, intensify the efforts, raise the temperature of the negotiations, and hold more contacts within the U.S. initiative in order to accelerate the negotiations.

Minister Salim made this statement after chairing a meeting at one of the Presidential Palace offices at 1815 in the presence of the negotiations coordinator general Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni, members of the Lebanese delegation and some members of the U.S. delegation to the negotiations.

Salim asserted that the negotiations will continue saying: We will not stop them. Our stance is very positive and we want an agreement. I believe that we have reached a stage where an agreement is almost ready provided that intentions are good and each party wants to ensure the sovereignty, stability, and safety of the other state. If this does not produce results in 2 weeks, Minister Salim said, we in Lebanon cannot continue to turn in a vicious circle. We will then be compelled to introduce new activities in our foreign policy, expand the scope of the negotiations, and discuss with the Americans a new course to accelerate the negotiations.

The foreign minister went on: We cannot continue to negotiate points, which have been known, for 1,2, or 3 years, particularly [points] that we have been clear on since the beginning. We will not do anything which will affect the sovereignty of Lebanon or detract from it. As long as these principles are internationally recognized and as long as our stand is reasonable, then we must reach a reasonable agreement on reasonable points in the very near future. He added: I have not set 2 and 3 April as a deadline.

I said that the next 2 weeks are very important, and if we do not succeed in these 2 weeks, then we will continue the negotiations. But we will reappraise our course within the framework of our foreign policy and will decide to what extent we must increase the temperature and intensify our contacts because what is happening now will be totally unacceptable.

The minister was asked: What are your comments on what has been reiterated since this afternoon that Philip Habib has failed to persuade the Israelis to accept the U.S. proposals? He answered: No, no. Ambassador Habib will come to Lebanon tomorrow and we will have discussions with him. I believe that there are difficulties in all negotiations and there are positive aspects. There are difficulties. Tomorrow we will discuss with him and in Netanya as well some of the points in which we might find some shifting.

Minister Salim further said: There are still some difficult stands. Philip Habib is not coming with solutions tomorrow. We will hold discussions with him, and I believe that we have reached the stage of intensifying the negotiations. We will continue these negotiations with a positive spirit. We are very confident that an agreement will be reached by means of and through the U.S. initiative. If this will take more time, then never mind. We will change our course and reappraise our policy. We will do everything possible to ascertain that we are working for ensuring the withdrawals as soon as possible.

AL-WAZZAN REAFFIRMS POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS

NC241843 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan today reaffirmed that Lebanon adheres to its stands on the current negotiations with Israel and that the government has assurances in principle from the Syrians and the Palestinians that they will pull out.

Al-Wazzan explained that the Lebanese question has reached a decisive point -- there will either be deliverance or we will be forced to seek another path to save the homeland. He said that Lebanon must develop and march forward to achieve a national fusion and to create a state in Lebanon which does not adopt sectarianism or acknowledge it. He added that this is the first time that the president of the republic has been elected from an effective and active establishment possessing all the necessary prequisites for action on all levels. This, he went on, has placed the party in a position of primary responsibility. However, the nature of the structure in Lebanon dictates that the president should remove his party dress. President Amin al-Jumayyil has tried to do this and he has succeeded to a large extent in being the president of all the Lebanese.

Answering a question during an interview with the Lebanese news agency, Al-Wazzan said: The object of the 2-week period of grace vis-a-vis the negotiations is to demonstrate true intentions and to define Israel's final stand. We have dealt sincerely with the mission of Philip Habib but Israel has rejected the Lebanese proposals. It is laying conditions encroaching on our sovereignty, resources, and interests. We are trying to overcome all these conditions. I believe that once we reach an agreement with the Israelis of acceptable rules for the withdrawal, the question will be raised with all concerned.

Sources close to the prime minister have expressed their hope that positive steps will be taken in light of the current efforts to achieve the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon.

The same sources say that although the present climate, which is cast with clouds, does not encourage the anticipation of many Isareli concessions, the international arena understands the nature of the Lebanese suffering. The indications are that important preparations are underway to help Lebanon in its efforts to restore its full sovereignty.

AL-JUMAYYIL, AL-WAZZAN APPRIASE SITUATION

NC241226 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Excerpt] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil met with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan at the Republican Palace at 1230 today. They appraised the current situation, Ambassador Habib's mission, and the progress of the tripartite negotiations.

A meeting will be held at the Republican Palace at 1830. It will be attended by Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, negotiations coordinator general Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni, and member of the U.S. delegation Christopher Ross. The meeting will be devoted to discussing some provisions and points relating to the tripartite negotiations.

Minister Salim has visited former President Charles Hilu in Al-Kaslik and reviewed with him the general situation and the progress of the negotiations.

The 24th round of negotiations will be held in Netanya tomorrow while Ambassador Philip Habib is continuing his efforts to bring the views between Lebanon and Israel closer on the basis of U.S. ideas which were drawn up after the talks which the U.S. side had last week with the Lebanese and Israeli sides in Washington.

There is no indication so far that Ambassador Philip Habib has achieved progress in his current talks with Israeli officials, which primarily deal with the proposed security arrangements in southern Lebanon and the future relations between the two countries.

SALAM STATEMENT ON ISRAEL NEGOTIATIONS

NC241302 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] In a statement to the press, [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam has emphasized that Lebanese efforts have succeeded in convincing U.S. officials of the Lebanese Army's ability and that this stand has been supported by U.S. military officials present in Lebanon, who are continuing to provide the Lebanese Army with the required high standard so as to enable it to carry out its task on all levels and combat terrorism -- a matter that is of urgency as far as we are concerned.

Prime Minister Salam pointed to a softening in the Isareli stand in the wake of Shamir's talks in Washington and described the negotiating process as a tug-of-war. He emphasized the consistency of the Lebanese stand and rejection of any Israeli military presence. He said that there are southern sectors which have special security arrangements and that a tripartite committee will exchange information on what takes places on the borders.

QULAYLAT DISCUSSES CUBA VISIT WITH ENVOY

NC250623 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat [leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement-al-Murabitun] received at the movement's central headquarters yesterday Cuban Ambassador to Lebanon Jacinto Vasquez de la Garza and Embassy Charge d'Affairs Raul Rodriguez. They discussed the current developments and the danger that is constantly threatening the area as a result of Zionist ambitions. They also discussed Brother Qulaylat's expected visit to Cuba.

CALM IN AL-BATURN; SECURITY VIOLATIONS ELSEWHERE

NC241919 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Cautious calm prevails in the villages on the hills of Al-Baturn following last night's shelling of (Shnata), Dayr Billa, Al-Qattarh, (Bayt Kassab), and Mayfuq by the Syrian positions and the Al-Maradah artillery.

It has been reported from An-Nabatiyah that Israeli forces raided some houses in Kafr Rumman and arrested some students, who participated in yesterday's processions, after accusing them of throwing stones at the Israeli army.

It has been reported from the township of Al-Ma'rakah in the south that an Israeli military expert this afternoon defused an explosive device which was placed under a bus. An Israeli bus was damaged today when an explosive device, which was placed on the road to Tyre near the Ar-Rashidiyah camp, went off.

On another level, 90 detainees of the Ansar camp were released today.

It has been reported from Tripoli that gunmen opened fire this morning at an Internal Security Forces position in the Al-Baqqar street in Tripoli. Shots were fired in the city during the funeral of a member of the security forces.

At 1640 Israeli forces set up a roadblock near the Saint Theresa crossroad in Al-Hadath to search cars.

In the area of Bhamdun, Syrian forces blocked the highway when they defused a cluster bomb this morning.

An Israeli roadblock along the old Sidon road carried out a thorough search of pedestrians and cars.

PLO TO BE ASKED TO RETURN MAPS OF MINED AREA

NC231558 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] This afternoon the Lebanese Army, in cooperation with the multinational force, resumed the detonation of mines in Sports City and the race track areas. The Voice of Lebanon has learned that there are about 18,000 mines in Beirut, mostly in areas that had been controlled by Palestinian gunmen. It has also been learned that the Palestinians who have withdrawn from Beirut and its suburbs have carried with them some maps of the mined areas. The sources mentioned that contacts will take place with the PLO abroad for restoring those maps in order to pinpoint the mined areas.

In this respect we refer to the existence of some underground arms caches which cannot be discovered without the help of these maps.

USSR DELEGATION VISITS BA'TH PARTY BRANCH

JN242001 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Comrade Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Presidium of the Kirgiz SSR Supreme Soviet, and his accompanying delegation, visited the Damascus branch of the Ba'th Party today.

The branch secretary welcomed the Soviet delegation and praised the developed relations between the friendly USSR and Syria and the Soviet support for Syria in its just struggle against imperialism and Zionism to liberate the occupied Arab territories. He also praised the friendly USSR's constant support for the Arab issues, foremost being the Palestine question.

Later, Koshoyev delivered a speech in which he stressed the firm relations between the two friendly countries and the fateful struggle against imperialism and Zionism. He also praised the role of the Ba'th Party and its secretary general, struggler Comrade President Hafiz al-Asad, in facing the plots and designs hatched by imperialism and Zionism in the Arab region.

AL-BA'TH SEES ARAB AREA AS NUCLEAR TARGET

PM241121 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 15 Mar 83 p 2

[Jibarah al-Barghuti article: "What Is the Arab Share of the U.S. Nuclear Belt?"]

[Text] The United States has laid all the foundations to enable it to erect a nuclear belt around the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact states. Pentagon quarters have achieved their primary objective of shifting a worldwide nuclear confrontation to outside the U.S. borders by distributing the nuclear catastrophe among the Old World's peoples and countries.

As part of the recent U.S. threats, it was recently revealed that the NATO alliance commanders have decided that the alliance's armies should be the first to launch a nuclear strike, and yesterday the U.S. Army confirmed that it intends to deploy Pershing missiles on FRG territory.

But the United States, which is accustomed to tricks and deceit, declared that it is prepared to extend the SALT talks [as published] if the Soviet Union agrees to do so.

The whole world is witness to the fact that the Soviet Union was the first country to make an official pledge to the United Nations that it will not be the first to use its nuclear capability. Does this pledge not mean that the Soviet Union is alone among the big powers seeking any measure to free this world from American evils?

According to Western military experts, Europe is no longer the only U.S. front in the nuclear belt. Recently, it was announced in Washington that Pentagon strategists have held secret meetings to discuss subjecting the Arab area to U.S. influence, particularly after Japan and the Far East countries have been brought under U.S. hegemony.

When U.S. experts recommend that Egypt and Oman become areas of strategic influence, and that the Red Sea and the Arab Gulf be included within the framework of Rapid Deployment Force operations, does this not mean that nuclear explosions will be the lot not only of the Europeans but also of the Arabs, who have become the victims of every U.S. aggression.

Therefore, how can the Egyptian regime be a member of the nonaligned group and how can the countries that have accepted Qabus of Oman, who have brought U.S. danger to the Arab nation, be nonaligned?

According to estimates by strategic research centers, some Europeans could escape the radiation and destruction of nuclear explosions because of the means of protection they have, but what can protect the Arabs from radiation and destruction when their only concern is to squander their money on U.S. fortifications?

If those dreaming Arabs have lost their memory, it is our duty to remind them of what former U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown said when he expected that the Arab Gulf region could be the first place in which Neutron bombs would be used against its people and installations.

DAMASCUS RADIO ON IRAQI OPPOSITION OPERATIONS

JN241432 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] The revolutionary forces for the liberation of Iraq issued two successive statements on 14 and 15 March in which they announced that the fascist regime in Iraq had arrested 67 persons this month following a heroic operation carried out by the revolutionary forces against two positions of the fascist authority in Sinjar district.

The revolutionary forces for the liberation of Iraq clarified that after the detachments of the democratic national and patriotic front had launched an assault on the so-called office in charge of Syrian affairs, the public security and police headquarters, and the governer's office in Sinjar, the authorities questioned the Sinjar governer's wife and arrested a number of citizens in the district, including some employees in the television broadcasting station.

The revolutionary forces for the liberation of Iraq said in their second statement that the organs of the fascist authority had arrested the employees who were on leave a week ago, and had executed a number of persons, including Engineer 'Abd as-Sattar Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Hisawi, Engineer Ahmad, and employee Ibrahim Husni. They also dismissed numerous popular army and government organs' members on charges of collusion with the revolution forces which carried out the aforementioned operations.

The statement said that the assault carried out by the detachments of the national front against the positions of the Saddamite authority resulted in 25 persons killed, numerous persons wounded, and the burning of the so-called Syrian affairs office, and public security and police headquarters. The statements affirmed that resistance will continue against Saddam's fascist regime until it is overthrown and the glorious Iraqi people restore democracy and freedom under a new government.

EGYPTIAN OPPOSITION LEADER ADDRESSES PRESS

JN242154 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Lieutenant General Sa'd ad-Din ash-Shadhili, secretary general of the Egyptian National Front, has said that President Hafiz al-Asad's stands and those of the Syrian leadership are in complete harmony with their meticulous understanding of the international and Arab stands, and with their faith in and dedication to the pan-Arab issue.

Addressing a news conference in Damascus this evening, Ash-Shadhili added that Syria has a firm right to deploy defensive missiles because the right to self-defense is guaranteed to every sovereign state. He said that every state has the right to absorb weapons, offensive or defensive, and arm itself, to defend its boundaries and independence.

The secretary general of the Egyptian National Front explained that Syria has the right to protest against U.S. aircraft and arms sales to Israel, stressing that nobody in the world has the right to protest against Syria's obtaining weapons with which it can defend itself against enemy aircraft and weapons.

Lt Gen Sa'd ad-Din ash-Shadhili said that the United States always endeavors to arm Israel and make it superior to all the neighboring Arab countries collectively, and that this is something not new for the United States.

Asked about the possibility that an Israeli-U.S. attack might take place against the Arab region and the Arab Gulf, Ash-Shadhili alluded to the statement made by former Zionist Defense Minister Sharon in which he said that Israel is capable of occupying the Gulf area to deprive the Arabs of their effective and strategic oil weapon. He explained that this attack is possible, especially with the absence of Egypt, chained by the Camp David accords, and Iraq, involved in the war against the Islamic revolution in Iran.

On the situation in Egypt under the treasonous Camp David accords, Lt Gen ash-Shadhili said that the objectives of the Camp David treaty are being attained according to the plan to weaken the Egyptian Armed Forces and to rely on the United States. He added that the Egyptian economy has become subservient to the Western economy and that its debts are increasing every year.

SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA ENDS TOUR OF DUTY

JN241503 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 24 Mar (SANA) -- People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud as-Zu'bi today received Felix Guillermo Fernandez-Shaw Baldasano, the Spanish ambassador in Damascus, who came to bid farewell at the end of his term in office.

Az-Zu'bi thanked the ambassador for his efforts to promote bilateral relations and his especially good attitude toward Syria and the Arab issues. He also commended Spain's positive stands on the Arab issues, both in bilateral relations and in international and European conferences. Az-Zu'bi voiced his desire that contacts and visits be increased and relations be promoted between Spain and Syria, especially by exchanging opinions in the parliamentary field.

The Spanish ambassador said that he had received a good impression of Syria during his stay, praised the bilateral relations, and stressed his country's positive stands on the just Arab issues.

FATTAL DENIES LEBANESE ULTIMATUM IN NEGOTIATIONS

TA250912 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] The head of the Lebanese delegation to the talks with Israel, Antoine Fattal, has said that there is no Lebanese ultimatum in the negotiations and that Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim's remarks were distorted by the Lebanese media. He noted that the remarks followed a feeling in Beirut that Israel has no intention of reaching an agreement and withdrawing from Lebanon.

He was answering a question raised by the head of the Israeli delegation David Kimche, who made it clear that Israel would under no circumstances agree to negotiate in the shadow of an ultimatum and stressed that it wants to reach a settlement with Lebanon, but not at the expense of its security. The head of the U.S. delegation, Morris Draper, said that there has been good progress so far and that he hoped that an agreement would be reached soon. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein says that discussions are now underway in the subcommittees on military affairs and bilateral relations.

UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL TO S. LEBANON CONTEMPLATED

TA250834 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Mar 83 pp 1, 11

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Israel is contemplating a unilateral withdrawal to the Al-'Awwali in southern Lebanon if the deadlock in the political negotiations on security arrangements and normalization between Israel and Lebanon continues.

If such an Israeli move is actually carried out, it might divide Lebanon into areas of influence -- Syrian in the north and Israeli in the south -- and senior Israeli Government elements in Jerusalem believe that this could torpedo the already shaky administration of Amin al-Jumayyil in Lebanon.

MA'ARIV had learned from senior government sources that the possibility of a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf hills and a pullback from the Beirut-Damascus highway in order to redeploy along a defense line which will have the Al-'Awwali as its boundary has been discussed by the senior political echelons in Jerusalem in view of the fear that the negotiations with Lebanon with U.S. participation might collapse.

Senior government sources in Jerusalem said last night that the way in which the negotiations are being conducted by Ambassador Philip Habib is not promising, and that if Israel's far-reaching proposals for security arrangments and normalization are ultimately rejected by the United States and Lebanon, there will be no other alternative but to make this unilateral move.

MA'ARIV has learned that senior political levels in Jerusalem have recently been given a document worked out by experts, which includes a breakdown of the advantages and disadvantages involved in a unilateral IDF deployment along the security buffer zone in southern Lebanon.

The government sources emphasized that as a result of the IDF's withdrawal from the Beirut-Damascus road, the Syrians and terrorists might take advantage of this situation in order to regain control over Beirut and thus undermine a substantial achievement of the Peace for Galilee war which allowed Lebanon to rehabilitate its sovereignty and independence.

The experts who looked into the implications of such a unilateral move have concluded that such a move could contribute toward guaranteeing security in southern Lebanon and the prevention of activity of hostile elements in the area adjacent to the Israeli border.

If Israel is forced to take this step as a result of the failure of the negotiations, it would open the entry and exit axes to the civilian population while at the same time allowing for the security forces to have control over this. In such an eventuality, the IDF, the security forces and Major Sa'd Haddad's Christian militias will be present in the area.

The political sources pointed out that a unilateral Israeli withdrawal to the Al-'Awwali River line would grant the IDF soldiers good defense, provide it with control over the area, and allow it to prevent terrorist acts, thus drastically cutting the vast expenses of maintaining the IDF along the present lines in Lebanon.

The government sources emphasize that Israel will make every possible effort to exhaust the political negotiations, where substantial progress was made on a number of clauses, but they still maintain that one cannot expect Israel to make any further concessions in the areas of security and normalization beyond the compromise proposals raised by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir during his talks in Washington.

Israel firmly insists on the continued presence of Maj Haddad and his forces in the south as part of the security arrangements, along with IDF-Lebanese Army patrols in the buffer area under a joint supervision mechanism.

Israel rejects the U.S. approach that maintains that the Lebanese Army units which had previously been deployed in the northern part of that country are capable even now of shouldering the security burden in southern Lebanon and preventing terrorist activity. Israel argues that it has information and proof of the existence of past cooperation between the Lebanese Army units serving in the north and the PLO and the Syrian Army. Against this background, Israel is not prepared to forsake its security and risk it by placing it in the hands of those forces.

In anticipation of the departure of special U.S. envoy Philip Habib to Beirut today, the most senior political echelon held meetings and consultations in Jerusalem yesterday and decided that Israel has reached the limit of the concessions it can make and that it would be a mistake for the United States and Lebanon to believe that they could pressure Israel into making any further concessions.

SHULTZ DISCUSSES LEBANON, HUSAYN WITH DINITZ

TA250536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has expressed hope that an agreement will soon be achieved on the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and that Jordan's King Husayn will join the Middle East peace process.

Shultz was speaking to former Ambassador Simha Dinitz in Washington. He firmly denied reports that the United States had promised Husayn 98 percent of the territory of Judaea and Samaria if he were to join the negotiations.

IDF SOLDIER WOUNDED BY CHARGE NEAR BEIRUT

TA250748 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0745 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] An IDF soldier was wounded by a bomb that exploded at the roadside this morning when an IDF patrol drove near the Ash-Shuwayfat neighborhood, south of Beirut. The IDF has begun searching the area. This was an announcement by the IDF spokesman.

EDITORIALS CRITICIZE U.S. OFFICIALS' ROLE IN TALKS

POST Assails Weinberger

TA200907 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Mar 83 p 8

[Editorial: "Weinberger's Game"]

[Text] Very strange things are happening in Washington. There is a President who has openly designated Israel as an "ally." There is a secretary of state seemingly willing to be reasonable not only on the need for Israel to withdraw from Lebanon, but also on the need for such a withdrawal not to leave Israel worse off than it was before the Lebanese war. And there is a secretary of defence intent on treating Israel virtually as an enemy.

That such sharply contrasting views can exist within an administration is a domestic American matter. But the impact on policy is not. Mr Caspar Weinberger, as was stated in Washington last week by a critic, has imposed what amounts to a boycott on Israel. When Arik Sharon was Israel's defence minister this was interpreted as deriving from Sharon's abrasive behaviour, rhetoric and policy.

But at the Pentagon, nothing has changed since Sharon's departure. Quite the contrary. the U.S. Marine contingent in Beirut, directly under Mr Weinberger's supervision, has been under strict orders, from the start, to avoid all friendly contact with Israel. The Marine officers are under orders not to liase with Israeli field commanders, unlike the French, Italian and British contingents in the multi-national force in Beirut. They are under orders not to interfere with terrorists, who seek the protection of their lines either to attack or escape from Israeli patrols.

And now they seem to be, if not under orders, then self-persuaded by the attitude at the Pentagon, to blame Israel for the attacks that have recently been perpetrated against Marines (and other contingents as well) in West Beirut.

The job of the Marines in Beirut is admittedly frustrating. They are directed to keep peace. But they are also under great pressure to avoid getting hurt, for any casualties would have very unfavourable repercussions in American public opinion, and especially in Congress. This is not an enviable task, especially for an elite and proud fighting force like the Marines.

They have been encouraged, therefore, by their orders, by their frustration, by the atmosphere created by Mr Weinberger, to vent their feelings against the Israel Defence Forces, who, under constant threat in hostile territory, face entirely different problems.

The result is that the Marines, officers and men, have developed a decidedly anti-Israel cast. Even American travellers from Beirut have been astounded by the depth of the hostility that has been permitted to develop. These attitudes were given further legitimacy last week by the letter of the Marine commandant, General Robert Barrow, first leaked by the Pentagon, and then fully publicized, charging Israel with deliberately trying to provoke the Marines for "obtuse political reasons."

That this letter was aired a day after Marines were wounded in Beirut in a terrorist attack seemed not to deter the general's Pentagon superiors. This exquisite timing does deserve to be considered replete with "obtuse political reasons."

Now Defence Minister Moshe Arens has again urged Mr Weinberger to permit regular field liaison between the IDF and the Marines to prevent further misunderstandings. Since such liaison with the British, French and Italian units has seemed to prevent the frictions of which the Marines complain, there must be profound reasons indeed why Mr Weinberger has so steadfastly rejected the idea.

Whatever those reasons are, they have nothing to do with the word "ally." But they also have nothing to do with rational military management. And that must be an indictment of any defence secretary, no matter what his policies or prejudices.

DAVAR Hits Habib

TA221100 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Mar 83 p 1

[Special report from Washington by Yosef Pri'el]

[Text] Israel's rejection of the U.S.-Lebanese demand that Major Haddad's Christian militias be completely dismantled is liable to prevent the achievement of any agreement in Lebanon, a senior official in Washington told this correspondent yesterday evening.

He said that the United States does not accept the Israeli concept about the vital nature of Haddad's role and that of his forces. In meetings Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir held last week in Washington, Israel explained to the Americans that the militias in southern Lebanon were established from the top down, and that removing the head (Haddad) would be to destroy all of this force, which Israel regards as vital for preserving the security of its northern border.

In these talks, the Americans analyzed the danger facing Israel and said that following the PLO's departure from Lebanon, the only danger that exists is that of infiltration by individuals, and not a massive danger of infiltration by a large and organized army. According to them, the Lebanese Army is able and willing to confront this danger. As the U.S. Administration experts see it, the Lebanese Army is already capable of handling this task, and the United States promises to improve its ability through training to be conducted in southern Lebanon. Israel regards the danger facing it with a different degree of seriousness and is unwilling to depend on the insignificant power of the Lebanese Army.

Israeli officials in Washington told this correspondent yesterday evening that in their view it would be easier to reach an agreement on withdrawal from Lebanon in Washington than in the region itself, because of the weight mediator Philip Habib assumes when the talks are conducted in the region. They said that Habib directs the negotiations onto an impossible course for Israel, and that his assessments form the basis for U.S. concepts unacceptable to Israel. Last week the officials said that one could also see how Secretary of State Geroge Shultz was aware of Habib's onesidedness and how Shultz "put him in the corner."

The Israeli officials said that when Habib is in Washington he represents at best the Lebanese position, and that when he is in the Middle East he represents both the Lebanese and U.S. positions, which makes Israel's situation decidedly difficult.

DAVAR EXAMINES SYRIAN-SOVIET TIES IN LEBANON

TA231220 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Mar 83 p 9

[Commentary by Yehoshu's Tadmor: "The Syrian-Soviet Catch-22"]

[Text] The repeated Israeli Government resolutions not to evacuate the IDF from Lebanon unless done simultaneously with the evacuation of Syrian forces and terrorist squads are justified. After all, Isarel went out to the war because of the terrorist activity along its northern border, which was backed by the Syrians. Yet on such sensitive and serious issues it is not enough to be right; one must also be wise and read the map properly. Here, though, the Jerusalem decisionmakers did not complete their job thoroughly.

They did not consult sufficiently with the specialists whose expertise lies in deciphering the Syrians and their leaders' labyrinthine ways of thinking. Perhaps they also feared an internal political entanglement because of the weighty mistakes which anyone can now discern, because what is obvious is that the demand for a simultaneous withdrawal of the IDF, the PLO, and the Syrians is a serious self-imposed catch-22 situation.

The leaders in Damascus do not want to remove their forces, at least not before they get additional substantial concessions. The PLO leaders certainly do not want this. Although both the Syrian and PLO leaders have made lots of promises, we nevertheless know the Syrians and the PLO leaders. One can hardly manage to count the number of pledges they solemnly made to the leaders of Lebanon in the course of the extended civil war. Each one of them proved to be totally worthless.

Why then should the Syrians rush to pull their forces out? They have no reason to do that. First they will launch negotiations, and try to extract the most out of Lebanon and turn it into a quasi-protectorate. They will wear down Lebanon's Christian leaders and will try to twist the United States' arm into incorporating in the negotiations their Soviet benefactors and protectors, who are aspiring to a much broader range of negotiations with the United States: on the overall regional affairs, or at least on the future of Lebanon, and the Palestinian and U.S. moves toward promoting peace in the area. They will be able to drag out such negotiations for months, perhaps even years, and show the Arabs of the Middle East who cares for them and who does not give a damn about their cause: the United States, which supposedly cares for and about Israel, or the Soviets, who never hesitate to undertake risks for the Arabs' sake.

Against such a background it is highly questionable whether the Syrians would indeed show flexibility in the negotiations and regarding the pullback. Who, in the foreseeable first stage, would pressure them? The Marines? The multinational force? The Italians? The French? We had better not drift into dreamland.

As for the Soviets, this is an entirely different ballgame. When they stand beside the Syrians, the latter have someone to rely on: Soviet missiles, thousands of advisers and technicians scattered throughout Syrian units, and the blatant threats addressed to Israel. What wonder, then, that the Syrians presently feel confident and show arrogance. No one is pressuring them.

In such a state of affairs, the Syrians can make an easy assumption and do the following simple calculation: Israel is prepared to evacuate quickly and not only the Ash-Shuf hills area, but is even ready to pull out of southern Lebanon, down to the last meter, at once. This means that it is under pressure, and if this is so, why should the Syrians make things easier for Israel? On the contrary, let us engage as many Israeli troops far from Israeli soil, let us encroach on them, hit them, and Israel will pay the price for maintaining the units far from home -- both in money and in manpower. It will likewise foot the bill for the tension and the semi-warlike atmosphere in Israel, the constant conflicts with the United States, and more.

The Syrians would be risking nothing by embracing such a policy, and it would furthermore be difficult to accuse them of aggression. Meanwhile the Soviets, who would grant them support, would reap political gains in possible direct negotiations with the United States, first of all on the issue of Lebanon and the PLO, and later on over the partitioning of the region into areas of influence.

There have already been past initiatives, but the Soviets never gave up and tried and tried again. Now they are trying one more time.

The current Soviet offensive in the region, which exploited the opportunity when its protege Syria was dealt a blow, is currently at its height. Let us not minimize the Soviets' capability of pushing and promoting their interests in the area, especially in view of the Americans' impotence and absence of resourcefulness in bringing about the extension of the war, involving Jordan and the PLO in the Reagan plan mess together with the Camp David agreements, and in letting the Soviets move their missiles into Syria and recapture their hold there.

In the future we will probably be able to view the U.S.-Soviet competition once again with great concern. The Russians will be able to tell the Arabs: Anything the United States is able to do for you, we Russians can do better. And the Americans will reply: But you saw how we pulled the IDF out of all of the Sinai? Now the evacuation of Lebanon is imminent, and next in line are the West Bank and Gaza. So join us, and be part of our efforts.

Under no circumstances should Israel find itself in such a regrettable, sorry situation; namely the Syrian catch-22 supported by Soviet backing, a catch-22 situation which Israel has in fact initiated, and which provides Damascus with the right to veto the continued IDF presence in Lebanon. Nor must it place itself at the mercy of the two superpowers which are competing in order to win the Arabs' favors. In either case, Israel might well emerge hit and beaten, and its prestige is likely to deteriorate to its lowest point.

Israel would be well advised to do some soul searching and in-depth thinking, and stop conducting regional calculations. It transpired that Lebanon is a flimsy prop. Its leaders have repeatedly betrayed Israel. In the first place we should not have indulged in regional or strategic illusions strewn by highly imaginative generals who nonetheless lack sufficient level-headed, cool thinking. There were experts in Israel even then who argued otherwise. Even under the present circumstances, which are so difficult, there is room for an alternative.

Israel should in the next few days send documents to the Governments of Lebanon and the United States confirming the date for the Israeli withdrawal and emphasizing that Israel views the United States and Lebanon as the two countries responsible for the terrorists' and the Syrians' withdrawal, as Israel has been promised time and time again. It is true that such documents are not all that much, but they still place a certain political and moral commitment for the withdrawal upon the United States and Lebanon.

In that document, Israel will tie its own withdrawal to that of the Syrians and the terrorists, as a self-understood matter, based on U.S. involvement and intervention. Such a policy would obligate the United States to engage in more intensive activity to push the Syrians and the Palestinians more into a corner and restrain any show of aggression on their part. It will provide a constant reminder to the United States on how to regard future promises by the Syrians and the PLO leaders.

Moreover, the Americans have always known how to compensate Israel when injustice was done to it. There is no reason why we should not take action in Washington to obtain the proper recompense this time, too, should Israel be given the worse part of the deal after the Syrians and the PLO go back on their pledge and refuse to pull back.

And finally, any demand for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal will undoubtedly trigger criticism claiming that this is "Israel folding up" and showing "defeatism."

Well, then, this is certainly folding up from a shameful situation, compared to even more detrimental alternative options. Furthermore, let us not forget that only a few years ago senior IDF officers -- although not all -- claimed that the Syrian invasion of Lebanon could be beneficial to Israel in that it would expose the Syrian forces to yet another front and antagonize additional opponents to it in Lebanon, while the danger to Israel from the south would remain fixed and unchanged. These statements will continue to hold true even after the Israeli withdrawal.

There is absolutely no need to adhere to previous Israeli resolutions for reasons of political prestige, and certainly not for reasons of personal pride. We have found ourselves in a mess after this sorry war, and we must get out of this situation in the best possible manner, involving a quick severance of any contact with the Syrians or the Soviets. At the same time, it is still important to remember that they are not yet threatening Israel's existence, so that it is preferable to lower the profile of the conflict, and aspire to limit the Soviet presence. In a certain situation, the Syrian leaders might also strive to achieve just this.

WEST BANK GROUPS TOLD TO STAY OUT OF POLITICS

TA250621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] The civilian administration in Judaea and Samaria has informed the cooperative associations in the territories that they must refrain from engaging in politics. Letters sent to the heads of these associations said that according to law they can only engage in economic and social matters.

Our correspondent notes that recently the heads of the large cooperative associations in the territories have made declarations supporting Jordan. Recently they received large sums from the joint Jordanian-PLO committee. This week the committee discussed ways of increasing aid to the cooperative associations.

For the PLO, 'Arafat's aide, Abu Jihad, took part in the discussions, while for Jordan, occupied territories Minister Hasan Ibrahim participated.

LEVI COMMENTS ON SOVIET, U.S. MIDEAST ROLE

TA242003 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Interview with Chief of Staff Moshe Levi by military correspondent Dan Scemama at news conference on 24 March, place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Levi] At the end of the Yom Kippur war, the Arab countries received weapons and investments in infrastructure worth about $80 billion, of which about $30 billion was from the Eastern countries, the Eastern bloc, and these sums include primarily U.S. sales and not all the sales of the Western countries. [as heard] We are speaking of about 9,500 tanks, about 2,000 aircraft, hundreds of helicopters, thousands of artillery pieces of various types, and so on.

[Question] Recently, too?

[Answer] There has been an appreciable increase over the last few years. That increase takes the form, on the one hand, of a more massive introduction of weapons from the United States in the fields of joint training and in the fields of bases or arrangements for the use of bases; and also, with the same impetus, of the Soviet Union's establishing emergency stores mainly in Syria.

[Question] When this information is taken into account, what does this require with regard to the IDF's work program for the coming year? What main changes will occur in the IDF?

[Answer] The work program has to take into account the situation in the field and from this aspect it takes into account a further stay in Lebanon.

[Question] How long, according to the work program, is it estimated that the IDF will stay in Lebanon?

[Answer] Today the IDF is prepared to remain in Lebanon until we reach agreements, and these agreements, since they are political agreements, although they have a security aspect, are connected with the government's decisions.

LEVI OUTLINES IDF WORK PLAN FOR COMING YEAR

TA250759 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Mar 83 p 1

[Report by defense correspondent Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] Reserve duty in the coming year will be about 45 days for soldiers in fighting units and about 60 days for specialists and technicians, Chief-of-Staff-designate Maj Gen Moshe Levi said yesterday. This is less than many reservists have served this year, but more than in recent years.

Speaking to military correspondents in Tel Aviv, Levi said that next year's work plan for the Israel Defence Forces includes the possibility of a continued stay in Lebanon, and will concentrate on incorporating the lessons of the Lebanese war into IDF doctrine. This would mean reconstituting the IDF's composition coupled with improving weapons, in service with the IDF, among other changes.

As a result of the Lebanon war, the IDF's training schedules have been adversely affected. Emphasis will be placed on training ground forces, both to achieve a higher standard of performance and to familiarize them with lessons learned during the war. The IDF will grow in strength, Levi said, as a result of incorporating modern weapons systems into all forces. The Merkava MK II battle tank will soon be going into service. More Kfir jets will be purchased, and the navy is scheduled to receive new technology.

Levi confirmed that a decision in principle has been taken to establish a ground forces command which would necessitate a basic reorganization of the IDF. But no provision for the change has been made in the work plan for the coming year.

Since 1973, Levi said, the Arab states have spent $80 billion on arms and military infrastructure, $52 billion of which was spent by the Arab nations in the U.S. Arms purchased included all main battle systems, ranging from ground-to-ground missiles to Soviet T-72 tanks. He said that Soviet involvement in Syria became much deeper recently and that for the first time Soviet advisers have been stationed with Syrian troops. Recently, he said indications had been received, including the placement of SA-5 Soviet-manned missiles on Syrian territory, that were not encouraging. The IDF would stay in Lebanon for as long as the government told it to, Levi said.

In response to a question, Levi said that the IDF was prepared for a war with Syria in the spring of any other time, since it was the IDF's job to be ready for any eventuality. This does not mean, however, that a war is to be expected, he stressed.

He estimated that it would take two months for the IDF to pull out of Lebanon once the decisions is taken.

But we added that the speed of the pullback would be a function of what type of agreement is reached, and the conditions under which the IDF has to withdraw. If the environment is not hostile, meaning that few troops will have to be deployed to protect that pullback, then it could be quicker.

MINISTER PAT NOTES POLITICAL, ECONOMIC ISSUES

TA241608 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1530 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Tel Aviv, 24 Mar (ITIM) -- Today Minister of Industry and Commerce Gid'on Pat said that the chief political challenge of 1983 was to "repair the breaks" in the relations between Israel and the United States.

Appearing at the Tel Aviv Rotary Club in the Hilton Hotel, Minister Pat said that the deliberations about the arrangements between Israel and Lebanon would also reach a conclusion. He added that the commercial relations that had developed between the two countries had proved to the Lebanese people the great value of bilateral commercial relations. He also said that Israel should prepare itself for a wise reply to Jordan's incorporation in the deliberations on the basis of the Camp David agreements, if Jordan were to join, Israel's dream of a life at peace would come true.

Minister Pat thinks that there is a good chance of improving Israel's status in the international community, after they had deteriorated with the Peace for Galilee campaign. He emphasized that our status could be repaired despite the serious injustice done to us.

Minister Pat said that the Knesset session had passed safely despite the fact that there had been dangers in ambush, such as the election of the chief rabbis and the presidential election. He confirmed that the government's stability would continue and all the rumors about its downfall or undermining were false and nonsense.

The minister of commerce and industry said that over the past few years Israel had succeeded in increasing its commercial exports in 1982 to $5 billion and 680 million compared with $2.414 billion in 1977. Mr Pat stressed that over the last few years he had not heard any complaints about an Israeli exporter or producer who had not kept his commitments, even during the Peace for Galilee campaign.

The minister dwelt on the difficulties of exporting, noting that in the past, for example, it had been enough to export 4.5 francs to France in order to receive $1, while now it was necessary to export 7 francs in order to receive a dollar. He added that despite the fact that the problems of the balance of payments was a serious one, Israel had not asked for a loan to repay debts. Its debts to the United States were 56 percent of all its debts, debts owed to those purchasing bonds were 22 percent and the remainder was owed by the country to commercial banks. Minister Pat emphasized that the international banking system had not to date refused any Israeli request to receive a loan.

The minister of industry and commerce added that the problem of maintaining the framework of work salaries would soon arise, but the government was determined not to lose control of the economy. Praising the workers of Israel for their devotion, Minister Pat noted that one third of Israeli exports were the fruits of local development.

ALGERIA

ADVISER CARRIES BENDJEDID MESSAGE TO ANDROPOV

Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Lakhdar Ibrahimi, member of the Central Committee and adviser to the presidency, left Algiers for Moscow witha message from President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of FLN, to Mr Andropov, secretary general of the CPSU Central Committee.

Abdelhamid Brahimi, member of the Central Committee and minister of planning and national development, will be leaving for Saudi Arabia with a message from President Bendjedid to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

'ARAFAT DEPARTS AFTER MEETING BENDJEDID

LD242216 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution's forces, left Algeria this morning after a short visit during which he met with President Chadli Bendjedid and other Algerian Government officials. The brother commander in chief has arrived in the Algerian capital at 2200 last night. Brother Abu Ammar said to our correspondent that his short visit falls within the continuous consultations between the two revolutions -- Algerian and Palestinian -- regarding the latest developments of Arab events.

SPANISH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD231300 Algiers APS in English 1008 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Algiers, 23/3/83 (APS) -- Prime Minister Abdelghani held talks with Spain Vice President [as received] Mr Alfonso Guerra who arrived here yesterday for a four day official visit.

They discussed bilateral cooperation in the economic field.

Mr A. Guerra has stated upon arrival his visit will help strengthen relations between the two countries linked by historic ties. He said: We will take this opportunity to examine some economic, cultural and political matters.

As for the Saharan problem he indicated the two parties concerned Morocco and Polisario should enter in negotiations. We support, he added the Saharan people's right to self-determination conforming to U.N. and O.A.U. resolutions. The Spanish delegation was greeted at the airport by Finance Minister Benhamouda.

Meets Polisario Official

LD241936 Madrid in Spanish to Europe 1730 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Spanish Deputy Prime Minister Alfonso Guerra had a meeting in Algiers this afternoon with the man in charge of foreign affairs in the Polisario, Ould Salek [title and name as heard]. The meeting was at the request of the Saharan representative, who telephoned the Spanish Embassy in Algiers to request a private meeting with Guerra.

Though the meeting was not listed on the Spanish delegation's official program, it came as no surprise, because it had always been felt that Mr Guerra might have contacts in Algiers with representatives of the Saharan people.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI CONGRATULATES HASSAN ON THRONE DAY

LD250826 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Mar 83

["Text" of cable from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to King Hassan on occasion of throne day -- date not given]

[Text] Your Majesty King Hassan II:

On the occasion of the National Day of your sister country, it pleases me to convey to you, in the name of the people of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, sincerest congratulation coupled with my best wishes. I ask God to repeat the occasion with health and happiness for yourself and progress and prosperity for the fraternal Moroccan people.

SDAR PRESIDENT ABDELAZIZ ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI

LD230712 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the SDAR and secretary general of the Polisario, and Abdelkader Talebomar, member of the Political Bureau of the Polisario, and an accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening.

Brother Mohamed Abdelaziz made a statement to the JANA reporter at Tripoli International Airport in which he said: We come to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah at a time when we are linked by one destiny and one objective. We are linked by revolutionary ties and we fight for revolutionary aims against the common enemies of the Arab nation -- namely Zionism, imperialism, and reaction.

He said: We are in need of such meetings to define the course of our aims and pan-Arab aspirations. He noted the determination of the revolutionary forces to extricate themselves from the current Arab reality, which is weak and complacent. He said: In our struggle for the freedom of our people, we rely on the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and on the aid and support it gives us.

He added: The SDAR is a fact. We have influence in the region and are considered a fundamental element in northwest Africa. He said that the Moroccan royalist regime still clings to its hostile stand. It is a stand which is against the Saharan people and which serves imperialism, its aims, and its expansionist plans.

JANA: UN IGNORES COMPLAINT BY CHAD'S HABRE

LD250007 Tripoli JANA in English 1436 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] New York, Jumada Thani 10, March 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The complaint filed by Hissein Habre to the U.N. Security Council against the Jamahiriyah, at the request of the U.S. Administration, was met with indifference. Our correspondent in New York said that the Security Council's members did not give any attention to Habre's representative's trivial remarks made before the council.

During this very short session, the representatives of Egypt, Habre and Senegal attacked the Jamahiriyah. The Egyptian representative's speech before the council was hostile to the Jamahiriyah in the same way that the U.S. Administration's hostility towards the Jamahiriyah is usually expressed.

The Jamahiriyah permanent representative to the U.N. refuted in his speech the allegations expressed by the three representatives and were in line with the U.S. hostile attitude towards the Libyan people.

The Libyan representative said that Habre does not represent the legitimate government in order to speak on behalf of the Chadian people and that the only legitimate authority is the Provisional National Unity Government headed by Goukouni Queddei who is recognized by the Organisation of African Unity "OAU". He added that Habre's allegations against Libya are only to serve his personal ambitions and the imperialist-reactionary goals which are being carried out over the dead bodies of the Chadian people.

The speeches delivered by the representatives of Togo and the Ivory Coast were said to have taken a moderate approach. The Jordanian representative supported Libya and refuted Habre's allegations.

The Security Council is expected to hold another session next week on this matter in order to give other representatives the right to speak on this issue which only serves the U.S. policy in the region.

IRANIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR ANNIVERSARY

LD240943 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0735 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Mar (JANA) -- A large popular delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran, headed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rasuli, director of the office of Imam Khomeyni, arrived last night in Tripoli on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah within the framework of supporting and reinforcing cooperation and relations between the Jamahiriyah and Iranian revolutions.

The fraternal Iranian popular delegation, headed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Rasuli, will attend the Libyan Arab People's 13th anniversary celebrations marking the expulsion of colonial British bases from Libyan Arab soil.

STUDENTS PREPARE MARCH ON FOREIGN LIAISON BUREAU

LD242032 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1940 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Mar (JANA) -- The General Congress of Jamahiriyah Students held an emergency meeting at Al-Fatih University this evening which was attended by the secretaries of the students congresses in the municipalities, the secretaries of the students popular committees at educational institutions, universities, and high schools, and the secretaries of the students congresses abroad.

During the emergency meeting, members of the popular committee for students liaison and popular students committee for foreign liaison were elected so that the students could participate in the march on the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison along with other vocational congresses.

At the end of the emergency meeting, the General Congress of Jamahiriyah Students issued a statement affirming the adherence of the masses of students to the direct popular authority and affirming also the implementation of the resolutions of the Basic People's Congresses as formulated by the General People's Congress with regard to the march on the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison by all the vocational congresses.

The statement urged all the other vocational congresses to speed up the formation of their committees for marching on the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison.

MOROCCO

TAZI COMMENTS ON RESULTS OF AFRO-ARAB MEETING

LD241530 Rabat MAP in English 1211 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Casablanca, Mar 24, (MAP) -- Mr Abdelhaq Tazi, Moroccan secretary of state for foreign affairs, returned home on Wednesday from Tunis, where had participated in the sixth session of the commission on Arabo-African dialogue recently held in the Tunisian capital.

In a statement he made upon arrival here, Mr Tazi said the meeting provided the opportunity for Arabs and Africans to ponder a number of political questions concerning both communities, mainly the Middle East conflict and apartheid, as well as Arabo-African economic cooperation.

During this session, said Mr Tazi, participants decided to carry out joint ventures in the spirit of complementarity between the Arab world and the African Continent. They also decided to set up an Arabo-African cultural institute.

Finally, Mr Tazi said, participants decided to hold their seventh session this year, while the second Arabo-African summit conference will be held in 1984.

TUNISIA

PLO'S 'ARAFAT RETURNS AFTER VISIT TO ALGIERS

LD241722 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Tunis, 24 Mar (KUNA) -- PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat returned to Tunis this afternoon after a surprise visit to Algiers this morning where he had a meeting with President Bendjedid. Mr 'Arafat was accompanied by PLO Political Department director 'Abd al-Latif, Abu Hajlah, and the official in charge of Palestinian information, Mr Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman.

Mr 'Abd ar-Rahman said that Mr Yasir 'Arafat and President Bendjedid discussed the current political developments at both the Arab and international level. They also discussed the steps which should be taken in the light of the visit to the capital cities of the five permanent members of the Security Council by the Arab seven-member committee. They agreed on the need to consolidate the unity of the Arab stance and also to work to foil all attempts seeking to deal a blow to the Arab unanimity which was manifested at the Fes summit.

FOREIGN MINISTER ES-SEBSI ON MAGHREB, W. SAHARA

LD241220 Kuwait KUNA in English 1017 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Rabat, March 24 (KINA) -- Intensive contacts are under way to prepare for a summit meeting between the leaders of the Arab Maghreb countries: Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi said last night.

In a statement to KUNA, the minister affirmed that the Maghreb countries are determined to get closer toward further cooperation between them and said the proposed summit was likely to be preceded by a meeting of the foreign ministers.

Es-Sebsi is visiting here to convey a message to King Hassan II of Morocco from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba on the recent Algerian-Tunisian fraternity and accord agreement which was signed earlier in the week during a visit to Tunis by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

The minister said the region is witnessing a positive political atmosphere following the surprise meeting last month between the Moroccan monarch and Algerian president.

The two leaders met on February 26 at a border village in a bid to iron out a long dispute between their countries which orginated in Algerian support for the Polisario guerillas who fought a six-year war with Morocco for independence in the Western Sahara.

Commenting on his visit here, Es-Sebsi made it clear that it was in the context of continuous consultations between Tunisia and Morocco and to brief the Moroccan officials on last week's Bourguiba-Bendjedid summit.

The minister described the visit to Tunis by the Algerian president as "important," adding that it paved the way for an agreement to establish the Arab Maghreb "which is open for the rest of the Maghreb countries to join."

Asked on the date and venue of the proposed summit, he said that contacts are being made to that effect and stressed that the countries involved are set to overcome all possible obstacles including that of the disputed Western Sahara.

On the Sahara problem, the minister said it should be resolved through the channels of the Organization of African Unity, in a reference to the organization's summit in Nairobi, 1981 which recommended a referendum for the Sahara inhabitants to decide their future.

Shifting to the business of the Arab League seven-man delegation which visited London last week to outline the Arab Middle East peace plan, the minister pointed out that the League's team will meet early in April to assess the outcome of the visit to London.

Himself a member of the delegation, Es-Sebsi said the ministerial meeting in April will also discuss the possibility of calling a summit for the seven countries of which the delegation is made up.

Meanwhile, a group of Saharan people known as the Aosario movement based here yesterday sent a message to the Algerian minister of foreign affairs hailing the Algerian-Moroccan efforts to establish peace in the region and defuse tension in north west Africa.

Aosario's message, which was made public, hoped the recent political developments in the region would succeed in achieving the unity of the Arab Maghreb and that the Algerian Government which hosts vast numbers of Saharan people of Moroccan origin would help them return to Morocco.

Copies of the message were sent to the Tunisian and Moroccan foreign affairs ministers as well as to the U.N. delegate for refugees in Geneva.

NIGERIA

HOUSE SPEAKER SATISFIED WITH USSR TIES

AB241322 Lagos NAN in English 1248 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Lagos, 24 Mar (NAN) -- The speaker of the House of Representatives, Chief Edwin Ume-Ezeoke, yesterday told the Soviet ambassador in Lagos, Vlamidir Snegyrev, that Nigeria was aware of the role which the Soviet Union was playing in promoting global peace.

Receiving the ambassador in his office, Chief Ume-Ezeoke expressed satisfaction with the cooperation existing between Nigeria and the Soviet Union which had resulted in an exchange of visits by members of parliament of the two countries. The ambassador, in his reply, said that what the world needed was not armament but peace and stability.

MINISTER: ALIENS WITH VALID PAPERS PERMITTED

AB241732 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Nigeria's minister of internal affairs, Alhaji Ali Baba, says aliens are allowed into the country provided they possess the necessary valied papers. The minister, who was addressing newsmen on the activities of his ministry in Lagos today, said that he was satisfied with the implementation of the recent deportation order on illegal alines. He reiterated that the exercise would be a continuous one.

Alhaji Ali Baba announced that over 3,000 aliens have so far been registered since the exercise started. The minister also said that a contract for the national identity card system had been awarded at the cost of 56 million naira to two foreign firms. Equipment for the eventual takeoff of the program, he said, have also started to arrive in the country.

Meanwhile, a bill has been sent to the National Assembly to empower the national film censorship board to censor television films and video tapes. At present the functions of the board covers only cinema houses throughout the country.

SENEGAL

SUPREME COURT CONFIRMS ELECTION RESULTS

AB241348 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] The Supreme Court yesterday announced the final results of the 27 February legislative elections. The Socialist Party has obtained 111 deputies at the National Assembly, the Senegalese Democratic Party 8, and the National Democratic Rally 1.

The suits filed by Farah Ndiaye, Baba Kassane, Abdoulaye Thiao, and Ballah Ndiaye were rejected bythe Supreme Court, which has thus confirmed the results which were provisionally published on 7 March 1983.

ANGOLA

ANGOP CITED ON U.S.-ANGOLA 15-16 MARCH TALKS

MB242001 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] In the framework of efforts to assist in the implementation of UN Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence, an Angolan delegation headed by Lieutenant General Alexandre Rodrigues Tito, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau and minister of interior, met a U.S. delegation in Paris on 15 and 16 March 1983. According to ANGOP, which quoted sources close to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the meeting also dealt with questions related to the normalization of relations between the People's Republic of Angola and the United States. During the talks the Angolan delegation reiterated our government's stance on the issue of the withdrawal of the internationalist Cuban troops from Angola, as stated in the declaration of 4 February 1983.

MOZAMBIQUE

MACHEL SPEECH ON FULFILLING CENTRAL STATE PLAN

MB221846 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1800 GMT 21 Mar 83

["Impromptu" speech by President Samora Machel during debate on 1983 central state plan at 11th session of People's Assembly in Maputo on 21 March -- recorded]

[Text] We are going to approve the law but it is not the law that matters to us. The minister of planning prepared the chapters and each of the chapters is a story, a long story. At the Central Committee level the debate on the plan took a whole day. We even heard about figures that must be reached and achieved in agriculture, at the tea factory, at the sugar factory, at the copra factory, at the cashew nut factory, and at the textile factory. In agricultural production it is corn that must be produced, but we need hoes. Cassava, rice, sorghum, tomatos, onions, and pumpkins must be produced.

Shoes, canvas shoes, and socks must be produced. It seems that this is what is demanded by the central state plan. We import chicken, rabbit meat, pork, and beef from Argentina. Beef, we import beef from Argentina. However, corn is rotting in Niassa. We import fruit to sell at Interfranca [Mozambique diplomatic store] while Angonia's sweet and succulent strawberries are rotting. We import the juice that we need while citrus fruit is rotting in Manica.

Medical supplies that we do not produce are destroyed and stolen by the armed bands. Wood is not exported, even though we need foreign currency. Marble becomes (?powder) although we need to build our houses, and we need foreign currency. Cotton is burned, or it gets wet and rots, although the outside world calls it "white gold." Tractors are destroyed by incompetent drivers. Empty trucks are driven for kilometers and kilometers. However, the oil price is rising constantly, every day, and we state here that we want to implement the plan.

We do not identify ourselves with the means of production. Often we think that because the law has been approved it means that we have implemented the plan. It is a question of principle. We have already approved the state plan so it means that it has been implemented. The amount of effort needed has not been realized. A factory closes down and does not produce tons of goods, clothes, because we cannot spend $100. However, we are losing $100,000. We are losing $1 million. Smugglers divert goods from the ordinary circuits, and we support them as the best ones to solve our problems. However, we want to implement the state plan at the same time.

That is why I wanted to make this appeal. Do we want to approve? Are we going to implement? It would be good to say that it can be implemented. Yes, it can be implemented. However, the fight must take place at home first of all. Economy starts at home, by turning off the tap, the lights; by maintaining the house so that it does not fall into disrepair; by cleaning the floor, the marble, the walls every day; by maintaining the kitchen appliances. Our problem is that we want to run a scheme involving 500 workers when we are not even able to look after a plow. We want to look after a fleet of trucks when we are still not able to look after our bicycles. We want to improve standards at the Hotel Polana, Hotel Cordoso, the Dom Carlos Hotel when we are not capable of looking after and organizing our kitchen at home. We want workers to be punctual when, at home, we are not yet able to make sure our children get enough sleep. However, we want to run schools. We want to lead the workers so that they are punctual.

There is a lot of contradiction between the growth of our conscience and the demands. The best economist stays in his office. He does not go to the field or to the factory. The agronomist, the corn, rice, and tobacco specialist remains in the planning department and does not go out in the field. The biologist does not go out to the field. This is a contradiction. When we organized courses to increase one's knowledge, we sent the worst, the mediocre, to attend the courses. The good ones stayed with us. They are chiefs of everything, of disorder, and we gave them diplomas. Let us implement the plan.

We are not able yet to link defense with economy, economy with defense as two sides of the same coin. We have not reached this stage yet. It is alien for us when the tractor is destroyed by the armed bandits. When the truck is destroyed and burned by the armed bandit we say that it is not in our sector. Does a deputy have a sector? This is our concern. We do not see the relationship between air transport and railway transport, between railway and sea transport. For us there is no relationship, it makes no difference. However, we want to approve the plan. What is the importance of the plan then? What is its meaning?

We have already produced less corn, less cassava, fewer bananas. Bananas are a luxury in this country. Cabbage? It must be imported. Lettuce, tomatoes? We want to approve the plan. To approve the plan means first of all to give priority to the basic need. What is the fundamental need at this moment in the People's Republic of Mozambique? The priority is to end famine. Where there are several priorities there must be a main priority. When we have various paths there must be several main paths. Which ones?

We have recruited many foreign workers. Many of them are working in key sectors for the elimination of famine, in agricultural projects. There is not a single Mozambican other than illiterate ones next to these foreign workers. The main function of the foreign worker is to convey his knowledge to the Mozambican, but we have assigned the illiterate to work next to the foreign worker. It is true that the foreign worker after 3 years goes home. We want to know what the foreign worker has done. The first thing to say is that he formed cadres.

There are many projects. In Inhambane, in 1982 [words indistinct]. A scheme is going to produce some 38,000 tons of salt. First, we do not know how we are going to export it; the salt has been produced. Inhambane governor, how many tons?

[Indistinct reply]

Some 4,500 tons of salt are in Inhambene, and we have a salt shortage in Maputo. Zimbabwe and Malawi need salt, and it is there. We recruited foreign workers, and we paid them. They have built the salt factory in Inhambane. There is no way to export it, either by sea or by road.

The (Chipembe) project in Cabo Delgado, which is going to irrigate so many hectares: How many in (Chipembe) alone?

[Indistinct reply]

Two thousand hectares. It is being built entirely by Koreans. This year they will finish the earthen dam. There is not a single Mozambican working on that scheme. All the construction is being done by foreign workers. As of today there is not a single Mozambican. There is no manager to run the company.

Two thousand hectares: 100 hectares require 50 tractors -- no, 500 hectares; 100 hectares require 5 tractors. Now you can imagine more than 2,000 tractors. How many tractors, plows, and agricultural tools will be necessary for the irrigation schemes? How many workers will work there? As of today there is not one Mozambican there to produce rice, corn, vegetables. There is not a single Mozambican there. This year the foreign workers will finish the dam, and they will go back home.

In (Nguri), Cabo Delgado, between 500 and 700 hectares are now ready. There is no plan or management. There are only foreign workers. However, we want the plan to solve our problems.

Romanians are in Cabo Delgado and Niassa, in an area of 400 hectares. There are not any Mozambicans. In Matama, Niassa, there are Chinese. The biggest crops of corn, wheat, rice, fruit, bananas in the world are in Niassa today. There is not a single Mozambican involved in that scheme. How can we eliminate famine?

Officers -- the best are made bureaucrats. Medical doctors have been made into bureaucrats and clerks; agronomists made into bureaucrats -- agronomists, nurses, medical doctors, lawyers. Lawyers defend the people, serve as heads of popular tribunals. Economists and national directors write documents which result in theories, which lead to intellectual speculation which has not been enriched. It is necessary to consult volumes, volumes, and volumes until we make a textbook. Then they say: Samora, read it, it is here. I ask Machungo: Where was this man? He elaborated on the whole project, but where was he? He summarized this experience, from what experience? This is the plan that we want to approve here. Did you hear? We are being naive.

In 1977, 1980 when we convened the People's Assembly we seemed to have flowers here. Men and women looked like flowers. Now their hair is not properly cut. There are no razors or barbers. These days barbers are smugglers, businessmen. Nurses who used to promote hygiene are butchers now -- from nurseries to butcheries.

We have not fulfilled even 50 percent of the plan, but we approved it. At the Central Committee level we went straight into the matter. There is disagreement at various levels. The Foreign Trade Ministry does not know what is going on in the Ministry of Agriculture, although the Foreign Trade Ministry wants to export goods. The Foreign Trade Ministry does not know what is going on in the areas of wood, cashew nuts, and cotton but this ministry wants to export goods. In the international markets, Mozambique goods always get the lowest prices -- always.

At the moment the 1981 and 1982 corn harvests are rotting in Niassa and Cabo Delgado. There is no effort. Now, we have lines in Maputo, but there are 15,000 tons of corn in Niassa. We have 25,000 tons of corn in Zimbabwe. Part of our corn comes from the European Community because of the drought, and there are 25,000 tons that the Zimbabwean Government has offered the People's Republic of Mozambique because of natural disasters. There are two main ways into Mozambique from Zimbabwe: Beira from Mutare, or Chiqualaquala into Gaza. The corn is there.

Transportation sector, I do not know if you are aware of foreign trade and internal trade. I do not know if you are aware. Who coordinates the importing of these goods?

To protect only 50,000 tons the Ministry of National Defense deploys brigades and brigades. No, there is no coordination. Nobody knows. The months are going by. Disorganization -- we are victims of disorganization, first, at the internal level.

There are many trips abroad. In this republic one travels a lot. There is a special budget in dollars for traveling. What is the purpose of such trips? We are not capable of telling the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: I am going to travel, so that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can coordinate with other ministries, the Ministries of Finance and Banking. This could enable one Mozambican, one minister, to deal with various sectors abroad. No. It is a shame sometimes because everybody is in hotels abroad; Mozambique delegations are in hotels abroad.

When we go to the provinces we do not visit the companies; we stay in the capital. These days one even knows which is the capital with the best hotels. Now there is even the tendency not to stay in hotels. They are forcing the provincial governments to organize private houses and furnish them properly so that one knows that a leader has arrived. We are implementing the central state plan. [applause]

RADIO TO INTRODUCE PROGRAM FOR UNITA FORCES

MB241400 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 21 Mar 83

[UNITA radio]

[Text] Compatriots, comrades:

The Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel is an organ of information which broadcasts all political, military, economic, and socioeconomic facts affecting our fatherland, our country, and our people. The Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel is an information organ with an informative and formative mission. It broadcasts the guidelines and teachings of General Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, the indisputable leader of the Angolan revolution, president, and supreme commander of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA], so that the party militants and FALA fighters are enlightened to fulfill our revolutionary tasks on the basis of real independence, freedom, and happiness for the black people of Angola.

In this context, the Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel will soon introduce a program specifically dedicated to FALA fighters. This program will have a formative and informative mission and -- why not? -- include our good music, which will be carefully selected so that it is mixed with words and so that the combination provides happiness, color, and music and, above all, enables FALA fighters to reflect on life.

History has unequivocally shown that colonialism does not surrender on its own. Only by fighting colonialism will it be possible to force it to give up the senseless adventure upon which it has embarked in an attempt to silence the desires of the people. It was like this during the campaign against Portuguese colonialism; it is like this now when we are fighting against imperialism and Soviet-Cuban neocolonialism.

Gen Savimbi, president and supreme commander, teaches us that the exploited and oppressed cannot win power unless they form an army based on the sons of peasants and workers. This can be seen with the MPLA regime, which has no popular substance. Such a regime survives against the will of the people and is defended by foreign mercenary forces, as is the case of the Cubans who are in our country. FALA is the people's army formed by the sons of peasants and workers and strengthened and enriched by its supreme commander, Gen Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi.

At the start of the struggle of national resistance, nobody believed that Angolan peasants and workers could face the war machine of Soviet-Cuban imperialism. Today, nobody doubts FALA's political and technical capability. Our forces have high morale and are equipped with materiel means with which they have won more and more victories, as witnessed by the world. As we have said in previous programs, with regard to discipline the leadership of the party and armed forces has put political and military means at the disposal of FALA so that we can fulfill our patriotic and revolutionary duty of expelling the Cuban invaders and the traitors.

It is important that the organs responsible for dissemination of our party's ideals be in permanent touch with the broad masses of people and soldiers so that they are encouraged in terms of the thoughts of Comrade President Jonas Savimbi. It is in this context that we are going to introduce a new program on the Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel, UNITA's radio program. This program is dedicated to FALA's glorious forces. Its contents will be revealed in due course. Meanwhile, suffice it to mention that the program will have a formative and informative nature.

Comrades, soldiers, and officers of FALA, we will be back shortly with our program for fighters. (Cafundanga) is an example to follow. FALA is the expression and force of our people's frustration. FALA is the giant; FALA on the attack. The struggle triumphs, and only united around Gen Savimbi will we win.

DEATH PENALTY FOR 'ECONOMIC, POLITICAL' CRIMES

EA172309 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1715 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] The People's Assembly Permanent Commission has just issued law No 1/83 modifying the law on crimes against the security of the people and of the people's state.

The People's Assembly Permanent Commission issued the law in Maputo today. It modifies the 1 March 1979 law on crimes against the security of the people and of the people's state. The change in the law makes possible the application of more drastic measures against various forms of enemy activity, as well as against crimes which in practical terms could be regarded as extensions of enemy activity.

The new law makes sentences more severe and introduces the death penalty for crimes which seriously affect the economic and political situation of our country. For example, hoarders and smugglers could be sentenced to death, depending on the seriousness of their crimes. A rapist or an armed robber could also face capital punishment.

The modifications refer to Articles 23, 24, 25, 26, and 35 of the law on crimes against the security of the people and of the people's state. The articles relate to armed rebellion, mutiny, uprising or the use of force, terrorism, acts which are tantamount to terrorism, sabotage, and incitement.

(?Previously), the death penalty was subject to the condition that the crime should cause death or permanent incapacitation. The destruction of vital installations could not be punished by the death penalty. The same applied, for example, to a peacebreaker [violador] or armed robber, regardless of the damage he might have done.

The changes make possible the application of the death penalty to a hoarder, a smuggler, and other criminals, depending on the circumstances of their actions, that is to say, the seriousness of their crimes.

In the legal context, the modifications conform, therefore, with the spirit of the Chibuto rally, presided over recently by Field Marshal Samora Machel, the president of the Frelimo Party and of the People's Republic of Mozambique. During this rally, the people demanded the exercise of power and deterrent sentences against hoarders and smugglers.

YUGOSLAV TRADE UNION DELEGATION ARRIVES

MB231610 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] A delegation from the Yugoslav trade union organization began talks in Maputo this morning with their Mozambican counterparts. The delegation, headed by the organization's president, Bogoljub Nedeljkovic, was welcomed at the airport yesterday afternoon by the executive secretary of Mozambique's Production Council, Augusto Macamo.

Mr Nedeljkovic and Mr Macamo met yesterday to discuss relations between the two labor organizations. The Yugoslavians will also be officially handing over a school in Matola for trade union officials whose construction they have financed.

NAMIBIA

ABDUCTED CHILDREN RELEASED; ABDUCTORS SHOT

MB250603 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] The 12 schoolchildren abducted by terrorists in western Ovambo at the weekend have been freed by the security forces, and their three abductors have been shot dead. The children said in an interview with Radio South-West Africa that they were abducted with violence while attending a wedding near Tshandi in the (Ukwaludi) tribal area. The Territory Force of South-West Africa says recent indications of the abduction of children in Ovambo indicate a manpower shortage in SWAPO ranks.

SOUTH AFRICA

'WIDE APPROVAL' OF SWAZI PRIME MINISTER REPORTED

MB241201 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Our Africa desk reports that the appointment of Prince Bhekimpi Dlamini as Swaziland's new prime minister has met with wide approval. Observers feel that he will be able to reduce the tention between the Cabinet and supreme council, or Liqoqo. As a well-known traditionalist Prince Bhekimpi is expected to continue the basic policies of the late King Sobhuza II. Internally, this will mean that ultimate executive authority will continue to be vested in the monarchy, as advised by the Liqoqo. Externally, he supports the existing policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of neighbors and rejects economic boycotts and the use of Swazi territory by insurgents.

SWAZILAND

TINKHUNDLA GENERAL ELECTIONS SET FOR OCTOBER

MB241621 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Swaziland's next Tinkhundla general elections will be held in October this year.

The announcement was made today at Lobamba cattle byre by Her Majesty the Queen Mother and Regent Dzeliwe through the governor of Lobamba royal residence, Mr Vusumuzi Bhembe. She was addressing the Libandla meeting of chiefs, members of the royal family including the authorized person, Prince Sozisa, and the new prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi. The queen regent appealed to the chiefs to be united and cooperate with her at all times and be ready to perform special duties assigned to them.

PAPER NOTES MABANDLA-ROYAL FAMILY CONFLICT

MB231009 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 22 Mar 83 p 1

[By Patrick Bulger, THE STAR's foreign news service]

[Text] Swazi Prime Minister Prince Mabandla Dlamini "will be removed at gunpoint" if he has not left his official residence by tomorrow, a member of the royal family has threatened. The threat came after three days of confusion which ended yesterday when police officially informed Prince Mabandla that he was being removed from office. No successor has yet been named although the deputy prime minister, Mr Ben Nsibandze, will fill the post in the meantime.

Swaziland was tense yesterday as police released two members of the ruling supreme council of state, the Liqoqo, who were to have appeared in court yesterday on charges of making seditious statements against the royal Swazi police.

Swaziland's most serious political crisis since independence in 1968 began with the arrest of Prince Mfanasibili and Chief Maseko, both senior members of the royal family, two weeks ago. So serious was the crisis that members of the royal family warned that they would send the Army to free the two prisoners from the Mbabane prison if Prince Mabandla insisted on prosecuting them. "It was coming to the point where we would have had to use the soldiers to move them," a royal source said yesterday.

Observers believe that the release of the two men averted a possibly violent confrontation between the strongly pro-monarchist Swaziland Defence Force and the police. Royal family members say they believe the prime minister acted beyond his authority in having the two arrested in the first place. "The arrests were unlawful, there were no proper documents," they said. "They were just grabbed for security reasons."

BACKGROUND OF NEW PRIME MINISTER DETAILED

MB240830 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 24 Mar 83 pp 1, 20

[By Mandla Magagula]

[Text] Prince Phekimpi is the new prime minister of Swaziland. The announcement was made yesterday at Lobamba royal cattle byre by Her Majesty Queen Regent Dzeliwe through the authorised person, Prince Sozisa. She was addressing a meeting of chiefs, senior members of the royal family, the Liqoqo and Cabinet ministers.

It is normal practice in our society that when a man has served the throne, the head of state will retire him so that he can have a rest, Prince Sozisa told the meeting. "There is nothing unusual about the retirement of Prince Mabandla from the post of prime minister. The queen regent acted in keeping with Swazi law and custom in retiring him. The new prime minister is Prince Bhekimpi of Enkhaba royal residence.

Prince Sozisa told the meeting that he was not given to making lengthy addresses and signified that the meeting was over.

The new prime minister, who has been serving as deputy minister in the deputy prime minister's office, was not immediately spotted in the Kraal. Members of the police were seen searching for him around the cattle byre after his name had been announced. He was finally found sitting inside the enclosure for his Lindimpi regiment, outside the cattle byre. Senior army and police officers surrounded him while others from the two services cordoned off the enclosure. Local and foreign news photographs and reporters rushed into the enclosure.

The new prime minister looked calm as photographers took pictures of him. There was no press statement. After the photographic session, reporters and photographers were ushered out of the enclosure, leaving the new prime minister with army and police officers. Prince Bhekimpi succeeds Prince Mabandla, who was dismissed by the queen regent at the weekend on the advice of the Liqoqo.

Prince Bhekimpi, whose age could not be ascertained, is the son of Prince Mnisi of Enkhaba, northwest of Mbabane. A senior councillor told THE TIMES that he is a descendent of Prince Malunge of Nyakeni, the son of King Ngwane II. The new prime minister is the present chief of Enkhaba. His political career dates back to the preindependence days. Prince Bhekimpi served in World War II. At the end of the war, he worked at Havelock asbestos mine. He later joined the Swazi National Council and was primarily responsible for buying back privately owned farms for the Swazi nation.

He is reported to have been among the first to approach King Sobhuza II about the land negotiations with South Africa when that country left the commonwealth and became a republic in 1961. Prince Bhekimpi was the leader of the Swazi delegation to the first constitutional talks in London with the British Government in 1963. Other members of that delegation were the minister for agriculture and cooperatives, Mr A.K. Hlophe, Liqoqo member Dr George Msibi, the late Sukati brothers, Dr Msindazwe and Mfundza, Swaziland's first independence deputy prime minister.

Prince Bhekimpi is a founder-member of the Imbokodvo national movement which swept the preindependence general elections to form a self-government administration in 1967. He became assistant minister for local administration (now home affairs), a post he held until 1972. During the 1972 general elections, which turned out to be the last under the Westminster independence constitution, Prince Bhekimpi was returned with a sizeable vote in the Mlumati constituency.

He was appointed assistant minister in the deputy prime minister's office. When the new Cabinet was announced after the third parliament was established under the Tinkhundla system in 1978, Prince Bhekimpi retained his position, which was elevated to deputy minister in the office of the deputy prime minister.

Leading political observers at Lobamba yesterday described the new prime minister as one of the most seasoned politicians in Swaziland. "They could not have chosen a better-qualified man," said a senior political observer. Prince Bhekimpi is a very mature man and he has been involved in the development of this country since independence," he added.

Observers believe that Prince Bhekimpi's experience in government, particularly his two terms as deputy minister in the deputy prime minister's office where he dealt with labour disputes, will come in handy in his new post.

It was not announced when Prince Bhekimpi would be sworn in. Outside politics Prince Bhekimpi is known to hold strong antismoking and antidrinking views.

Swearing-In 25 March

MB250805 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 25 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] The new prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, will be sworn in at Parliament House today. The ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. It is understood that the swearing in will be officiated by either the chief justice or the attorney general. Prince Bhekimpi was appointed prime minister by Queen Regent Dzeliwe at Lobamba on Wednesday.

Chiefs Comment on Change

MB241830 Mbabane Domestic Television Service in English 1630 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Following yesterday's appointment of a new prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi of Enkhaba, Her Majesty the Queen Regent Ndlovukati Dzeliwe today invited chiefs to air their views on the appointment and the dismissal last week of the former prime minister, Prince Mabandla. The invitation was extended by Lobamba Chief Councillor Mr Bhembe, who was addressing members of the royal family and chiefs at a mass-meeting at Lobamba cattle byre. Mr Bhembe had been instructed by the queen regent to invite the nation to air its views on the subject.

The first speaker, former minister for the defunct Ministry of Local Administration, now Home Affairs, Prince Masitsela, told the meeting he did not see any reason why anybody should query the steps taken by the queen regent. He said the nation had given its full backing to the queen mother at the byre when the decisions were made.

Clerk to Parliament Mr Mahlanzela Dlamini, one of two members of the youth who spoke at the meeting, urged the royal family to unite, saying that the entire Swazi nation looked to them for guidance and leadership. Mr Dlamini said that if united as orphans, following the death of his majesty the late King Sobhuza II, pleas by the royal family to the chiefs would receive a favorable response.

Mr Mahlanzela Dlamini bitterly criticized what he described as a feud among the royal family and appealed to fortunate members of the royal family to cater for their less fortunate brothers. He warned that if the family continued to hang its dirty linen in public, they were making a mockery of the monarchy. He also called on them to be loyal to the queen regent and the country's elders. He said this was expected of them, especially when one considers that the queen regent had the unbearable task of bringing up the new king of the Swazi nation. He also warned that if their support was not forthcoming, her burden of leading this country would be futile.

In a reference to the forthcoming elections, which Mr Shembe today announced would take place in October this year, Mr Mshuqo Zulu urged chiefs to screen all candidates to ensure that they were loyal citizens of this country.

Another speaker, Dr Velani of Matsapa, backed by Mr Mathandele Dlamini, urged the royal family to unite and stop the current feud, which he warned would culminate in the downfall of the monarchy. He also appealed to the nation to support the queen regent.

Liqoqo member and former minister for local administration and the defunct Ministry of Commerce and Cooperatives, Prince Mfanasibili, who, along with Liqoqo member Prince Mfanawenkhosi Maseko, was released from detention early this week following their arrest for allegedly making seditious statements against members of the royal Swaziland police, warned of the dangers of retaining what he termed unwanted leaders who were bent on overthrowing the monarch and declaring this country a republic under a life president.

Prince Mfanasibili said that it was in the interest of the nation to be told why they had been arrested. The prince said that whilst he thought it sub judice to state reasons for their arrest, he felt obliged to say that they had been detained for their efforts to safeguard the monarch of this kingdom.

PLAN TO INTRODUCE 'LIFE PRESIDENCY' REPORTED

MB250809 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 25 Mar 83 pp 1, 32

[By Mandla Magagula]

[Excerpts] General elections for the second Tinkhundla Parliament will be held in October. This was announced at Lobamba yesterday by the governor of Lobamba, Councillor Vusumuzi Bhembe, on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Regent Dzeliwe.

One of the prominent speakers was Prince Mfanasibili, who together with co-Liqoqo member, Chief Mfanawenkhosi Maseko, were released from prison on Monday. This was after charges against them under the sedition act had been dropped. "You must guard against people who want to overthrow the royal family and install themselves in power permanently," Prince Mfanasibili told the meeting. It is sub judice to say why we were arrested. It is enough for you to know that we were subjected to that humiliation because of our efforts to protect the kingdom from some elements who wanted to establish a republic and institute a life presidency.

Other speakers appealed for unity to preserve the peace and stability that the country had enjoyed since independence.

This will be the second elections under the Tinkhundla system since his late majesty, King Sobhuza II revived the system in 1978. This was after a constitutional commission appointed by the late king visited a number of countries in Africa and abroad to study their parliamentary systems to see how these could be adapted to suit Swaziland's needs. The commission completed its work and submitted its report after six years. Although the report was never made public, it is generally believed the findings of the commission greatly influenced the decision to revive the Tinkhundla.

How the system works:

An electoral committee supervises and assists in the conduct of the election by Tinkhundla of delegates to an electoral college which elects members of the House of Assembly.

The electoral college members are elected throughout the 40 Tinkhundlas centres, each of which returns two representatives. Candidates for the college are nominated by the Tinkhundla meeting. Each Tinkhundla nominates no fewer than two and not more than four persons as candidates, but only two with the highest votes scored during the general election represent the Tinkhundla in the college.

Any citizen of Swaziland over the age of 18 years is entitled to attend a meeting of the Tinkhundla for the area in which he ordinarily resides or works, and to vote at that meeting. In the event of a tie between two or more persons nominated by the Tinkhundla committee, the committee has a casting vote which is decisive.

The validity of any nomination or the regularity of the procedure adopted is not challengeable in any court of law, but the queen regent, if satisfied that there have been some irregularities, can set aside such election.

The election of the 40 members of the House of Assembly is by secret ballot. Another 10 members of the House of Assembly are nominated by the queen regent.

The Cabinet is drawn from among the members of Parliament, elected or nominated.

ZIMBABWE

NKOMO'S DRIVER IN HOSPITAL, NOT KILLED

MB240800 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] The driver of the ZAPU leader who was said to have been shot and killed is alive. A doctor treating Mr (Nkobe) for gunshot wounds at (Mpilo) hospital says he will be discharged soon. Before his departure for the United Kingdom, the ZAPU leader, Mr Nkomo, told newsmen that Mr (Nkobe) had been shot and killed by security forces.

MINISTER: NO AID ACCEPTED 'WITH STRINGS ATTACHED'

MB241648 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Mangwende, says Zimbabwe will never accept foreign aid with strings attached. Speaking at a farewell luncheon for the outgoing British high commissioner in Harare today, Comrade Mangwende said the government will not abandon its fight against dissidents just because a few of its friends are reconsidering their aid to Zimbabwe.

He pointed out that the international media has chosen to highlight the negative aspects of the situation in Matabeleland while covering up cases of rape, murder, armed robbery, and wanton destruction of equipment by dissidents. He praised the role played by the outgoing high commissioner, Mr Byatt, in strengthening relations between Zimbabwe and the United Kingdom. In reply, Mr Byatt said Britain is quite aware of the problems in some parts of Matabeleland and is confident that a solution will be found. Mr Byatt leaves for London tomorrow.

RADIO TRUTH COMMENTARY: WEST WILL DUMP MUGABE

MB250952 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] It would be a very hopeful and loyal follower of the Harare regime today who could not see the writing on the wall for ZANU-PF. Both the British Government, which has brought Mugabe to power, and the European Parliament have announced grave concern over events in Zimbabwe today. The European Parliament has said it will investigate the plight of minorities in Zimbabwe and the breakdown of law and order. The American Government has seen fit to voice its concern, and even THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA has issued biting commentaries on the actions of ZANU-PF.

There is little doubt that the seeds of a new and even more violent war have been sown by Robert Mugabe, and he is shortly to reap the harvest of what he has sown. And this time ZANU-PF will find itself fighting without the sympathetic facade of a liberation army and without many of the supporters it enjoyed in the other war.

To be sure, the Russians, having forsaken ZIPRA two years ago, are now supplying armaments to Mugabe for his 5th and 3d Brigades.

But these Russians will not -- cannot -- help him fight against his own people, particularly when their cause is a just one and recognized as being so by the British Government and the European parliament. Mugabe must never forget that the British Government made him prime minister, and when it suits them, they can as quickly destroy him. The Russians may supply Mugabe with all the ammunition he needs, but never in recent history has Russia loaned any country substantial sums of money. In fact, Russian loans to emergent nations in Africa has been less than one-tenth of America's and about one-fifteenth of Western loans in the past 20 years. And what Mugabe needs more than anything is Western money, which he is not going to get when he becomes bogged down in a civil war of his own making.

In fact, it is going to be severe shock to Mr Mugabe to find just how quickly he can be dumped by the West, and particularly by the British and the Americans. And who can blame them: After more than 20 years of pouring thousands of millions of dollars into Black Africa, what has been the result? The result has been Idi Amin, Master Sergeant Doe, Emperor John Bokassa, Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, civil war upon civil war, riots, famine, disease, and fat bank accounts in Switzerland for the few. Now, if everything we read in European and American magazines and newspapers is true, Mugabe is being viewed in the same light as Amin, and the result will be the same.

ZANU-PF's days are rapidly drawing to an end, and who will grieve their passing? Any intelligent man now would be looking about him for another idol to worship, another party to follow, because it is only a matter of time before Mugabe would be as much a part of history as Idi Amin.